

## Rabin arrives in Moscow on 4-day visit

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin arrived in Moscow Sunday for four days of talks that will include meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and members of parliament. Before leaving occupied Jerusalem, Mr. Rabin said there was a need for closer consultations between Israel and Russia on the Middle East peace process. Until recently, Russia has played a junior role in the peace talks, which Moscow is co-sponsoring along with the United States. Last month, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev paid a surprise visit to Israel, bringing new ideas for the peace process. The Israeli acted coolly at the time. "Acknowledging the fact that Russia is conducting a more active foreign policy, I see the need to talk with the Russian leadership to make sure that this activity is within the agreed framework of the two co-sponsors," Mr. Rabin told Israeli army radio. "I hope that we will be able to establish much closer contacts with the Russian leadership concerning the peace process," he said. His trip follows last week's visit by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has encouraged Moscow to revive its influence.

# Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

THE ONLY DIRECT FLIGHTS TO  
**U.S.A**  
NO CHANGE OF AIRCRAFT, AT MOST CONVENIENT TIMES  
NEW YORK, FIVE FLIGHTS WEEKLY  
CHICAGO, TWICE WEEKLY  
WITH ADEQUATE SPACE FOR CARGO SHIPMENTS  
ROYAL JORDANIAN  
YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Volume 18 Number 5596

AMMAN MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1994, THU AL QE'DEH 14, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fds

## Majali meets Chinese official

AMMAN (Petra) — The Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali received at his office in the Parliament Sunday Wang Chao, deputy president of the National Committee for Political Conference, and discussed with him bilateral relations and matters of common concern. Dr. Majali said that Jordan hopes China, a permanent member of the Security Council, continue to support the peace process. Mr. Chao voiced high appreciation for Jordan's efforts in bringing about lasting and just peace in the region based on U.N. resolutions.

## Warrant issued for Samir Geagea

BEIRUT (AFP) — A judge here issued a formal arrest warrant Sunday for former militia leader Samir Geagea as part of an investigation into the killing of a rival Christian leader in 1990. The official Lebanese Television said Judge Mounir Honein, probing the assassination of Dany Chamoun, his wife and two of their children, issued the warrant after Dr. Geagea had been questioned for 10 hours in the presence of his lawyers. Dr. Geagea, former head of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, was detained Thursday and has been held since then at the defence ministry. The state prosecutor will inform Dr. Geagea of the warrant Monday, judicial sources said (Press prevented, page 10).

## Ekeus in Iraq

NICOSIA (AFP) — U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus arrived in Baghdad Sunday for talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on long-term monitoring of Iraq's post-war weapons programmes. A U.N. official said a "tentative meeting" was set for late Sunday with Mr. Aziz, said the official at the Baghdad office of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, contacted by telephone from Cyprus. Mr. Ekeus arrived from Bahrain with a delegation which included Maurizio Zifferero, deputy chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and Russian ballistic missile expert Nikita Smidovich. Baghdad has called for an end to sanctions biting its oil exports, arguing it has fulfilled its obligations to the United Nations, notably by agreeing in November to a mechanism for arms controls (see page 10).

## Yemen requests delay of talks with S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — Yemen requested Sunday the postponement of a new round of talks with Saudi Arabia over their long-standing border dispute, officials said. They said the delay was caused by the political crisis gripping Yemen, where northern and southern leaders have been locked in a power struggle for months. Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry officials said the request was made through Yemeni Ambassador to Ghalib Ali Ghamdi. The Yemenis suggested that the border talks resume after the 'Eid Al Adha in mid-May, said the officials.

## Israeli-Gaza border to be fenced

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has ordered that the construction of a border fence around the Gaza Strip be completed within seven months, officials said Sunday. "The building work on this electronic fence was to be finished in 10 months," one official said. "The completion date will be brought forward by three months for security reasons following a wave of anti-Israeli attacks." Fencing around the main Jewish settlement area in Gaza called Gush Katif is being upgraded to include electronic systems. The total cost of the electronic gates, razor wire and electronic alarms around the 370-square-kilometre territory is estimated at \$45 million, Israeli Radio reported.

# Israel sees 'territorial concession,' dismantling of settlements for peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — Any permanent arrangement with the Palestinians once self-rule proves workable will involve "territorial compromise" and dismantling settlements, Israeli ministers said Sunday. "Our goal is to come to a separation," said Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur, who is close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "Good neighbourliness comes from living next to each other, not on top of each other." Until now, Israel has refused to commit itself to future peace moves other than the five-year interim period of limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. The self-rule agreement states that no settlements — over 120,000 Jews live in 144 settlements — would be removed in that period. But last week, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he was willing to return territory and dismantle settlements on the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria — and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat reportedly said he wanted to hear the same about negotiations with the Palestinians. Mr. Rabin said Friday he was ready to trade settlements in all occupied lands for peace. Mr. Tsur said the goal of separating Palestinians from Israelis stemmed from a recent

wave of violent attacks by opponents to the peace talks aimed at sabotaging any Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Since the self-rule plan was signed in September, 159 Palestinians and 41 Israelis have died in the violence. "We must come to the greatest degree of separation because we see terror continuing in the foreseeable future, even with implementation of the agreement," Mr. Tsur said. Other ministers echoed his remarks, which came as Israeli negotiators left for Cairo to resume talks on implementing the Sept. 13 agreement. "It's clear that with the final arrangement there will be territorial compromise," said Economics Minister Shimon Shetret, saying dismantling of the settlements was inevitable. "One presumes that Jews will not want to stay under the authority of another country." Mr. Shetret said that the government hoped the agreement could be signed by May 5, and that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would be in Cairo this Thursday to finalise remaining problems. Those include questions about what courts will try what citizens, Palestinians identity documents, control over airspace and sea-lanes, money, postage stamps and other symbols of statehood. One issue that was resolved was the timing of the arrival of the first of 9,000 Palestinian policemen. Mr. Shetret said 1,000 members of the force will arrive 24 hours after the agreement is signed. Israel Radio quoted cabinet sources as saying that Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin were split on how long the negotiations could be extended. Mr. Peres thought no more than two weeks, and Mr. Rabin thought it could be stretched to ensure all issues were successfully negotiated before implementation. Mr. Peres denied any split. "We will definitely make an intensive effort to complete the negotiations," he said on Israel Radio upon his return from talks with Mr. Arafat in Bucharest. "But there is a serious list of issues on one hand and we must always leave room for unexpected surprises from the other side."

Mr. Rabin approved an additional 4,000 permits for Palestinian day labourers working in Israel on Sunday despite a strict closure imposed after two suicide bombings and an attack that killed 13 Israelis this month. The labour ministry said the decision would bring to 8,500 the number of Palestinians now allowed into the country.

# Israel and PLO resume talks aiming for accord this week

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian and Israeli negotiators began on Sunday what may be the last week of talks before they sign an agreement on Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. Chief Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters that if all went well, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres could come to Cairo later in the week to prepare for a signing ceremony next week. Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are expected to sign the agreement in Cairo, crowning five months of work on practical details of the self-rule plan Israel and the PLO signed in Washington last September. Israeli ministers also said an accord on the long-delayed peace deal could be signed next week, but weighty problems remained unresolved. "We are beginning discussions today for a possible meeting on Thursday between Peres and Arafat, hoping that the signature of the agreement will take place on the 3rd, 4th, or 5th of May," said Economics Minister Shimon Shetret (see separate story). Mr. Peres returned to Israel late on Saturday night from Bucharest, where he held five meetings with Mr. Arafat in an intensive effort to wrap up an accord. Mr. Peres told reporters many misunderstandings had been cleared up and he hoped for quick agreement. But he told Israeli Radio before Sunday's weekly cabinet meeting that "weighty issues" including jurisdiction of courts, telephone codes, passports and currency in self-rule zones were unresolved. Another problem was over a timetable for Israel to set free the 4,400 Palestinians held in

Israeli jails. Israel has agreed to free 2,500 on signing and 2,500 about three weeks later. PLO delegate Mohammad Dahlan said the PLO now wanted Israel to undertake to release 2,000 more prisoners in July. The fate of the remaining 1,400 could be left to Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin to decide, he added. In previous rounds the Israelis have refused to give a date for freeing prisoners from Hamas, which has opposed the peace talks. But Hamas has recently shown signs that it will not try to undermine an agreement. Israeli sources said the Israeli side wanted a "security zone" 75 metres wide along the roads leading to Jewish settlements in Gaza and the PLO was arguing for a smaller zone. "We are ready. If the Israeli delegation is ready, we will announce during this session" (Continued on page 5)



REGENT VISITS GHQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters (GHQ) where he was received by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Abdul Hafez Mirai and senior army officers. The Regent and Gen. Mirai discussed issues of concern to the Armed Forces. The meeting (photo above) was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali. The Crown Prince also visited the Al Hussein War College.

# Post-disengagement regulations to be reconsidered and updated

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Sunday called for reconsidering regulations issued in 1988 following Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank. The reconsideration aims at updating and modernising the regulations to cope with developments since the disengagement with the West Bank. Addressing secretaries-general of the various ministries during a meeting held at the Water and Irrigation Ministry, the Regent stressed the need to reconsider the criteria governing the residence of West Bankers in Jordan with the aim of facilitating and easing administrative procedures. Prince Hassan said the department dealing with crossings across the River Jordan should coordinate with the various authorities concerned to facilitate crossing procedures. Prince Hassan also stressed

the importance of inter-ministerial coordination to ensure implementation of the country's planning policies. The Crown Prince called for "igniting spirit of innovation among the administrative staff" through reaching agreements on what is to be implemented. "Reaching the 64 per cent private-sector participation target specified in the national five-year development plan will not be possible unless the legislation becomes homogenous and simple," the Crown Prince said. Prince Hassan said the private sector had the liquidity and desire to invest in Jordan and called for the formation of a task force to help this sector carry out investment projects in Jordan without neglecting the state's preparatory and monitoring role. The Regent said the private sector could play a leading role, noting that it could contribute to addressing the ground water salinity problem, which is the result of the over-use of water resources. Prince Hassan called for taking the necessary measures to ensure the proper use of water by all. Prince Hassan called for reconsidering a proposal for setting up a bank or a fund for dealing with state-owned land through measures capable of handling requests to use such land. Creating incentives in this regard will be of prime importance at this time, when Jordan is facing extraordinary circumstances, caused by demographic and population pressures and land uses, he said. The Crown Prince stressed the need for studying the technical aspects of Al Moujib, Al Waleh and Al Tannour valleys in South Jordan with a view to ensuring the quality of water

(Continued on page 5)

# Settler attacked, 3 Palestinians wounded

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinians armed with sticks and stones seriously wounded a Jewish settler in Hebron on Sunday, and troops later shot and wounded three Palestinians in the area. The unrest came on the eve of the deployment of 100 foreign observers in the town, where a Jewish settler massacred more than 30 Palestinians on Feb. 25. Witnesses said the settler attacked was armed with an Uzi machine pistol and was directing traffic near the scene of the Feb. slaughter. Angry Palestinians finally set upon him. The army clamped a curfew on Hebron and launched a manhunt. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel agreed to bring in observers from Norway, Denmark and Italy to help protect Palestinians in the aftermath of the mosque massacre. An advance guard arrived two weeks ago, but the full, unarmed force is to deploy in the coming week, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen announced last Thursday. In first reports, army officials said the attacked settler had been hit in the head with an axe. Later Israeli troops shot and wounded three Palestinians in the Hebron area, after youths threw stones at them. In Gaza, troops facing down stone-throwers in Jabalya refugee camp shot and seriously injured a 13-year-old boy, Palestinian reporters said. Some 150 Jewish settlers from Gaza protested in front of the prime minister's office on Sunday, blaming the stabbing

# House waters down draft sales tax law

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Sunday secured a say on the decision to introduce the second stage of the proposed sales tax and cut from 10 per cent to seven per cent the tax the government would levy on goods and services under the draft sales tax law. The House approved its Financial Committee's recommendation to amend article 4 item B of the draft law to introduce the second stage of the sales tax five years after the first stage is implemented instead of the three years proposed by the government and have it introduced through a law instead of a Cabinet decision. After a lengthy debate in which more than 35 deputies, the prime minister and minister of finance participated, 32 out of 61 lawmakers present voted to cut down the proposed tax from 10 per cent to

seven per cent. But the House fell into what was described as a legal wrangle when it voted down the Financial Committee's recommendation to amend item B of article 6 to have the items exempted from the tax included in the law. Article 5 of the draft law was endorsed by the House as amended by the Financial Committee. It imposes the tax on goods and services except those exempted by the lists attached to the draft law. But article 6 item B as presented by the government and approved by the House does not refer to any lists attached to the law and gives the government the right to specify the exempted items through regulations. The vote on article 6, described by Financial Committee Chairman Ali Abul Ragheb as the most important article in the draft law, came after a tense debate in which deputies and the government alike used political as well as

economic arguments to win support for their stands. The House's amendments of the articles drew angry reactions from Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, who said the amendments distort the draft law which he said was meant to be part of a "reform" process. Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali tried to convince deputies not to cut down the rate of the proposed tax by saying the government needs the revenue the tax is expected to raise to finance government spending. He also drew a connection between Jordan's ability to repay its foreign debt and achieve self-reliance and the enforcement of the sales tax law as presented by the government. Referring to the deputies' demands for increased services and pay rises for civil servants, Dr. Majali said the government cannot increase spending unless it secures more revenue. Mr. Abul Ragheb said the committee viewed the draft

law from financial, economic and political perspectives before making its recommendations. Had it considered the draft law from a political perspective only, the committee would have rejected it, he said, and had it studied it from a strictly financial perspective, it would have endorsed it as presented by the government. But the committee presented fair and balanced recommendations, Mr. Abul Al Ragheb told the House. The government's losing streak in the debate over the law was reversed at the end of the session when 31 out of 60 deputies present voted in favour of having the government specify the exempted items through regulations. Mr. Gammoh argued it would be uncivilised and unprecedented for Jordan to tie the hands of the government in bureaucratic procedures by including the exempted goods and services in the law. (Continued on page 5)

# U.N. consolidates Gorazde truce, evacuates wounded

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.N. troops began evacuating the wounded and consolidating a truce Sunday in Gorazde, where peacekeepers said the warring Serbs were finally pulling back as demanded by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The head of U.N. forces in the former Yugoslavia said the Bosnian Serb forces appear to have complied with the NATO ultimatum to withdraw three kilometres from the centre of Gorazde or face air strikes. French General Bertrand de Lapresle said the Serbs were observing a ceasefire and "have withdrawn beyond the three-kilometre line, as far as we can tell." Bosnian government radio reported two people killed and 15 wounded by Serb sniper fire during the day. There was also sporadic mortar fire and a Serb infantry attack in apparent violation of a ceasefire and the NATO ultimatum. But the situation quieted as the day wore on. U.N. spokesman Major Eric Chaperon said Serbs were respecting the ceasefire. About 200 peacekeepers began fanning out around

Gorazde after arriving late Saturday night. Another 300 peacekeepers due to arrive Sunday were held up at Sarajevo airport. It was not clear what had caused the delay. U.S. officials said Washington was not pressing for NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serbs as they seem to be complying with the ultimatum to pull back from Gorazde. NATO issued an ultimatum Friday to the Serbs to stop the assault or face airstrikes, and gave them until early Sunday to pull back from the centre of town. "Virtually all of the ultimatum has been complied with," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in an interview broadcast Sunday on ABC-TV. "I think it is prudent to give them the opportunity to withdraw." Mr. Christopher said he would go to Europe on Monday to meet with the foreign ministers of Britain and France. "We will be monitoring it very closely. We have been disappointed before," he said. Gorazde, the heart of a mainly Muslim enclave in east-

# Hamas wants self-rule share, talks with Arafat

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
AMMAN — Leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, are prepared to meet with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to discuss the group's participation in Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, Hamas and PLO officials said Sunday. "We cannot say no to talks with Arafat forever. Nothing is forever — what's the point," a senior Jordan-based member of Hamas told the Jordan Times. Speaking on condition of anonymity citing "Israeli pressures on Jordan protesting our very presence here," the Hamas official said: "I have no dates yet but the meeting will take place soon. Our boycott on talks with Arafat is about to end." A Tunis-based PLO spokesman confirmed that a meeting

between Hamas and senior PLO officials and "possibly President Arafat" will take place "soon." Abbas Zaki, a member of the Fateh Central Committee, will be among those attending the meeting. Mr. Abbas has been Fateh's liaison with Hamas after the PLO recognised the state of Israel in 1993. The main framework of a "cooperation agreement" including Hamas participation in the Palestinian police force, administrative posts and technical committees will initially cover Gaza and not Jericho, a member of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) said. Hamas officials have been implying that the movement intended to participate in any elections held in the occupied territories, although it does not recognise the terms of Palestinian autonomy. "Hamas in Gaza is not the

same as Hamas in the West Bank," said the PCC member. "Hamas in Gaza is more realistic and the people there face greater and more severe worries. Thus they want a quick end to the occupation," said the PCC member. "Hamas in Gaza will work with Fateh to try and implement the autonomy accord." Musa Abu Marzouq, head of the Damascus-based political office of Hamas broke new ground last week by calling for Israeli withdrawal from all territories occupied in 1967, thus implying that Hamas is willing to recognise pre-1967 Israel. Mr. Abu Marzouq is from Gaza. On Sunday, Hamas tried to water down the statements made by Mr. Abu Marzouq by saying that "at this stage we cannot liberate all of Palestine. It is illogical, but that does not mean we will abandon the long term goal of liberating all of

Palestine." PLO officials in Tunis and Amman, however, believe that Hamas' leaders, specially those in Gaza, will work together with the PLO to "make self-rule work." "Those in the West Bank will also participate in the elections, but will not work as closely with the self-governing authority as their brethren in Gaza," said a PLO official. Many in the PLO hope that Hamas will join them in their efforts to make a success of the self-governing process but have strong reservations. "Hamas wants to have the moral high-ground among the population and yet participate and share in the fruits of the negotiations," said the PCC member in Amman. PLO officials in Tunis and Amman officials say that the negotiations on Palestinian (Continued on page 5)









Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday receives Lebanon's Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training Hassan Izzeddin (Petra photo)

## Jordan, Lebanon discuss exchanging expertise

AMMAN (Petra) — Determined to reconstruct their country following years of civil strife, the Lebanese people are now eager to revitalise their country's vocational training programmes and exchange expertise with Jordan in this respect, said Lebanon's Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training, Hassan Izzeddin.

Speaking at a meeting with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi, the Lebanese minister said that Jordan with its vast experience in vocational training can provide excellent expertise to Lebanon.

Lebanon firmly believes in the benefits of pan-Arab cooperation in various fields and in

collective efforts to confront common dangers, said Dr. Izzeddin.

Jordan's minister voiced the Kingdom's readiness to cooperate with Lebanon in technical education and vocational training and also in labour-related affairs and organising the labour market.

Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Ahmad Atwan outlined to the Lebanese minister the vocational programmes in Jordan and the VTC's cooperation with local industries.

The government will shortly endorse a draft law organising trades, which, Dr. Atwan said, would help organise the employment of at least 800,000

workers employed by 15,000 businesses in Jordan.

Nabil Naqaash, adviser to the Lebanese minister, outlined Lebanon's experiences in vocational training and its drive to raise to 70 per cent the rate of students joining vocational programmes, to meet the country's requirements for skilled labour.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali received Dr. Izzeddin in his office and reviewed with him scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Lebanon in educational fields.

Dr. Izzeddin earlier visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and was briefed by its president, Hani Mulki, on its programmes.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday meets with a visiting parliamentary delegation from China headed by Wang Chao Chu in a meeting attended by Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al-Lawzi (Petra photo)

## China is intent on contributing to Mideast peace — visiting team

AMMAN (Petra) — China is intent on contributing to the success of the Middle East peace process in a manner that would ensure the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the head of a visiting parliamentary delegation from China announced here Sunday.

Wang Chao Chu, who was speaking at a meeting with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al-Lawzi, said China considers the mutual recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel as constituting one of the main positive outcomes of the peace efforts, serving as a turning point towards peaceful co-existence between the peoples of this region.

Mr. Chu, who started a several-day visit to Jordan Sunday, said China, a permanent U.N. Security Council member, was keen on promoting the peace process and also on participating in the five working groups in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, stressing that Peking would pursue its efforts through the world community to fulfill the objectives of this process.

Mr. Chu said he hoped his visit would further strengthen China's already excellent ties with the Kingdom.

He said China views Jordan's achievements in the economic fields with respect and attributes these gains to the Kingdom's well-balanced policies at all levels and its commitment to a just and durable peace.

Mr. Chu and his delegation were briefed by Mr. Lawzi on Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East issue.

During their stay here the Chinese team will visit archaeological and touristic sites.

Senators Abdullah Salah, Kamel Abu Jaber, and Amer Khammash were at the airport to welcome the delegation.

## Cement company to hire firms for permanent services

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the second half of this year the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) plans to conclude contracts with international consultancy and cement processing companies to provide permanent services to the company and training for its workers, according to an announcement Sunday by JCFC Board Chairman Mohammad Saeed Abu Nowar.

Speaking after a meeting at the company's offices in Fuheis to discuss JCFC's

programmes and plans, Mr. Abu Nowar said the company is currently working on plans to ensure permanent control over the production lines and maintenance of equipment.

Referring to plans to control dust and smoke pollution resulting from the extraction processes, Mr. Abu Nowar said that JCFC last month concluded contracts with German and Danish firms to provide equipment and to implement a programme to control these pollutants. He said this programme is due to start

in the second half of 1994.

The programme is designed to address pollution problems inside the factories themselves and in the surrounding areas of Fuheis, Hummar and Mahes, Mr. Abu Nowar added.

The meeting was chaired by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf who stressed the government's concern to safeguard the environment in the Kingdom.

Dr. Khalaf said the government would like to see the company's level of operations

competing with the world's best industrial plants and at the same time safeguard the country's environment in line with the National Strategy on the Environment.

The minister suggested that a meeting by all concerned parties be held regularly every four months to follow up on measures used to ensure safeguards against pollution and monitor the company's plans for 1994-1996.

Among those attending Sunday's meeting was Fuheis Mayor Jamal Hattar who voiced the town's complaint against the continued dust problem stemming from the company's operations.

According to Mr. Abu Nowar, the JCFC produced 4.5 million tonnes of cement between 1990 and 1993; two million of which went for local consumption in 1992.

Last month, Mr. Abu Nowar said, the factories which were set up in 1951 were producing 5,100 tonnes of cement per day.

## 9 food poisoning victims released from hospital

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nine marble factory employees in Amman who on Saturday suffered a mild form of food poisoning left hospital the same evening and are back at their jobs, according to factory and hospital officials.

The nine men, aged 16 to 30, were reported to have been complaining of vomiting and diarrhoea and were treated at the Jordan Red Cross Hospital.

They were discharged after being placed under observation, a hospital official told the Jordan Times.

According to the report, the men had eaten white cheese and falafel for breakfast from a restaurant nearby the factory.

"An hour later, the men started feeling sick and some started vomiting," a factory official said.

According to the hospital official, samples of the food are being tested at the hospital to determine what kind of bacteria caused the poisoning.

"All nine employees have returned to work and are reported in good condition," the factory official said.

Three people die in separate accidents

A 30-year-old Irbid woman died Saturday of electrocution, a police report said. The victim, identified as

M.Z.M., was discovered by her husband who told police that when he returned home from work, his wife was lying near the washing machine.

He said his wife was laundering and apparently received an electric shock from the washer.

The woman was rushed to Princess Basma Hospital, but was declared dead on arrival.

The attending doctor at the hospital said the woman died of an electric shock.

Police investigations attributed the fatal accident to a short circuit in the washer.

In Amman, an 11-year-old girl Saturday was rushed to Al Bashir Hospital after being hit by a bus driven by a man identified only as S.M.M. The girl died later as a result of her wounds.

A police report said the child, identified as K.B.J., was crossing a street when they were struck down. Hospital reports said the sister is in serious condition.

Police have arrested the driver for not yielding to pedestrians.

Also on Saturday in Amman, a 58-year-old man was killed when the car he was driving went out of control and struck a light pole.

The report said, Ahmad Z. had been driving his car on Sarh Al Shahid Road. He was killed instantly on impact.

Ahmad's son, who was in the same car when the accident occurred, was listed in the victim's good condition.



Researchers and experts from several countries on Sunday attend an Amman conference on nursing (Petra photo)

## Nursing conference opens at JUST

RAMTHA (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Sunday said nursing has shifted from a supporting role to a full-participant role.

Addressing the Third International Conference on Nursing in the Middle East on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Noor Sunday, the minister said a qualified nurse has become the cornerstone of the efficient health care system.

Dr. Malhas stressed that his ministry directs special attention to the nursing profession, which he described as a vital and major component of the nation's medical team.

He said the conference provides a unique opportunity for

the exchange of expertise and building bridges of cooperation.

The nursing science has advanced tremendously over the last years, Dr. Malhas added.

Also addressing the conference was Kamel Ajlouni, president of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), who reviewed the conference's objectives.

The two-day conference, which is organised by JUST's Faculty of Medicine, will discuss 75 scientific research papers on teaching nursing in Jordan. Taking part in the conference are researchers and nursing experts from the U.S., Canada, Australia, Sweden,

Greece, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Qatar and Jordan.

Dr. Malhas met with Dr. Ajlouni and reviewed with him scopes of cooperation between the ministry and the university in the field of doctors training.

Also Sunday Dr. Malhas visited Princess Badi'a Hospital in Irbid and was briefed by its director, Farouq Al-Hmoud, on the services provided by the hospital. The minister also inspected the various sections of the hospital and met Director of the Irbid Health Department Abdul Hafez Al-Mountant and the hospital director.

## Ashrawi warns Palestinian self-rule could become 'tool for Israel's will'

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A leading Palestinian human rights activist has warned that the Palestinian interim authority might become a "tool for Israel's will" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hanan Ashrawi, the woman who made headline news as spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid Mideast peace talks in 1991, however, said that only a democratic, pluralistic Palestinian entity was a guarantee against this happening.

This is why Dr. Ashrawi, who until September last year was a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks with Israel, is launching with other West Bank activists the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights (PICCR).

A leading member of the PICCR, Dr. Ashrawi said she hoped the commission will enhance democratic practices in the future Palestinian state and will monitor the work of its leadership.

Her PICCR, which held its first meeting in February this year, is striving to act as an ombudsman (diwan mathalem: court of grievances) in a democratic Palestinian state. Grouping leading Palestinian figures, the commission aspires to ensure the rule of law, the establishment of legal structures, proposing and reviewing legislation aimed at protecting citizens' basic rights and freedoms and monitoring the work of the Palestinian national authority to ensure no abuse of authority or misuse of public rights.

"Democracy and human rights have become one of the latest fashions," Dr. Ashrawi said during a lecture at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Saturday. Asked whether the future Palestinian state would adopt the model of 'Arab democracy' or that of 'Western democracy', she said: "Real democracy can materialise if dialogue and discussion among the different political groupings is enhanced."

According to the prominent activist, the Palestinian people are ready and have the capacities and the capabilities to practise democracy in the future Palestinian state.



Hanan Ashrawi

The commission, she said, is already making preparations to ensure "free and fair elections" to the Palestinian council set for July.

After elections, she said, the commission's task will be to monitor and investigate the new authority's practices to make sure they conform to human rights and democratic principles.

"The leadership, elected by the people, will be directly subjected to criticism and questioning in a way it had never been questioned before," Ms. Ashrawi said.

The commission, which will have financial and administrative independence, will also be entrusted with the task of raising awareness among the public of their rights and duties in their future state.

"We want to promote democracy, encourage dialogue and institutional and cultural pluralism so as to prevent the authority from being transformed into a tool to implement the Israeli authority or an instrument to be used to safeguard Israel's security," she said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- BALLET**
  - ★ Ballet performance (Swan Lake, Bolero, Romeo and Juliet) at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- FILM**
  - ★ Film in French entitled "Tous Les Matins Du Monde" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- DRAMA**
  - ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "So That The Children Will Not Grow Up" at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**
  - ★ A one-hour show of a videotaped variety of classical music at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan (12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.).
- EXHIBITIONS**
  - ★ Exhibition of women's home-made products (including ceramics, sweets and handicrafts) at the Royal Cultural Centre.

## Unions strike back at criticism of price-setting practices

By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of the Jordanian doctors and engineers unions JDU and JEU struck back at a local columnist's criticism of their organisations' fee-setting practices saying that the author sought to undermine their efforts as professionals.

The unionists said their main concern is to provide quality work to boost the country's economy and serve its citizens with a "clear conscience." Unions' roles in Jordan have assumed priority among observers, who are divided into two categories: Those that support political work within unions, and those that think unions' prime role is to secure fair treatment for labourers, professionals and consumers.

According to Fahed Fank, an economist and political analyst, a major issue about unions has been ignored.

In an article published Saturday in Al-Rai daily, Dr. Fank criticised unions' "monopoly" of prices set by different unions for their members' services. He considers this price-setting issue as important as the controversial issue of union's political activities.

"The engineers' union is an

example of a cartel for monopolising service charges, especially that citizens have no other choice and are legally obliged to turn to engineers for constructing their houses," charged Dr. Fank.

He accused Jordan's engineers and doctors unions of exploiting the consumer and described the relationship between consumers and unionists as incompatible. Engineers for example, form one body which is protected by its union; citizens seeking services, however, are under the mercy of the unified body, Dr. Fank said.

Ishaq Maraqa, director of the Jordanian Doctors' Union accused Dr. Fank of not getting his facts straight. Dr. Maraqa told the Jordan Times that doctors' service fees have been set by representatives of different associations in the country to ensure fair treatment to all.

"The price list was formed upon consultations with 150 doctors, the Consumer Protection Society (CPS) and the Social Security Corporation (SSC)."

In his article, Dr. Fank said that both the JDU and the JEU services price lists specify minimum fees, but ignore maximum charges, which, he said, gives the professionals leeway to monopolise prices and exposes

consumers to the greed of some people. He added that prices should have been set by a neutral party, which is the government.

Dr. Maraqa countered that before accusing the JDU of being a cartel, Dr. Fank should have "bothered to pick up the phone and inquire about the procedures that went into pricing." He added that such an action would have prevented the economist (Dr. Fank) from falling into the "trap of projection." Dr. Maraqa pointed to the minimum and maximum fees for doctors' services, which, he said, have been set by the union to avoid any possible abuse of authority.

"This measure was taken to ensure that all citizens, poor or rich, get access to medical treatment, and, at the same time, provide doctors with a fair space for honest competition," stressed Dr. Maraqa.

"As for the accusations of some," added Dr. Maraqa, "I would like to say that it is unreasonable to look at clinics and hospitals as if they were grocery markets, where people haggle for cheaper prices. The nature of our profession, he added, "takes on a much more humanitarian view of things."

Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, an engineer, told the Jordan Times that engineers, like any other professionals, look out for the country's best interests.

"We too would like to contribute in improving the country's economy, and the setting of minimum fees by the union is one way of securing that aim," said Mr. Abu Ayyash.

As for maximum fees, Mr. Ayyash stressed that it was important not to confine an engineer's quality of work by the inflexible setting of maximum fees. According to Mr. Abu Ayyash, if an engineer is paid properly, he will be able to produce good quality work, which explains the union's inability to set maximum fees for engineers' services, he added.

Unlike doctors, engineers need a more flexible attitude towards price setting because quality of materials and their costs vary tremendously, and the choice of the cost of a project would be left to the consumer, said Mr. Abu Ayyash.

The JEU ensures, however, that proper work is granted to all citizens by setting minimum fees which oblige any engineer to perform within the limit of the consumer's budget. Mr. Abu

Ayyash said "the crux of the matter is that engineers do their job if they are paid, and the extravagance of the job is contingent upon the financing provided."

According to the engineer, monopoly is out of the question because an engineer is assessed by the quality of his or her work rather than by how much he or she charges.

"Any reputable engineer got his reputation through good work; moreover the nature of the job required by consumers dictates the choice of the engineering firm," he said adding that there are big offices that have large teams that specialise in huge projects while other smaller firms cater to less sophisticated projects.

He said all firms start on a small scale and expand after gaining experience and proving their efficiency, which in turn establishes their public reputation.

"It is a matter of trust: people come to you if they trust your work," said Mr. Abu Ayyash explaining the competitive nature of his profession.

Dr. Maraqa urged Dr. Fank to carefully study any issue before "hurling accusations," in order to establish constructive rather than destructive criticism.

## THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

in Amman, Jordan, has the sad duty to announce the death of President of the United States

RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON

The embassy will open a condolence book for signature in the USIS lobby at the embassy, April 25-28, 1994, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. May God rest the soul of the departed and grant comfort to his family



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1975  
جورنال التيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:  
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667117/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Israeli claims face challenge

ISRAEL WILL have a lot of explaining to do when it appears before the Committee Against Torture this week in Geneva. After acceding to the International Convention Against Torture, the Israeli government is dutybound to submit periodic reports on how it is meeting its treaty obligations under the convention. What could be really embarrassing to the Israeli delegation is the wealth of evidence accumulated by the U.N. and several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) about the extent of the Israeli torture of Palestinian detainees.

Amnesty International, the most credible and influential international organisation that monitors human rights violations worldwide, has already incriminated the Jewish state as resorting to "systematic torture or ill-treatment of detainees."

"Thousands of detainees are arrested and held on security grounds every year in Israel and the occupied territories and most are subjected to methods of interrogation amounting to torture or ill-treatment," AI has said in a statement issued on the eve of the committee session to review the Israeli situation. Recent revelations proved beyond doubt that in Israel there are in place secret security guidelines for interrogation which, according to Israeli military confessions, allow "a moderate degree of physical pressure." Amnesty, however, concluded that "either the official guidelines for interrogation ultimately endorse torture or ill-treatment, or Israeli officials have extensively violated such guidelines with impunity."

There is no doubt that on the strength of the overwhelming incriminating evidence against Israel, the international human rights body concerned with the implementation of the torture treaty will find it guilty as charged by the international community. Such a projected finding by the ten-member body will make a mockery of Israel's persistent claims that it is the only democracy in the Middle East and the only state that adheres faithfully to international human rights standards.

The wider examination of the Israeli human rights record will have another airing when the Human Rights Committee charged with the mandate of monitoring the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) will consider the Israeli report on these wider and comprehensive aspects of human rights when it meets again in the summer. All in all, 1994 could prove to be a watershed for Israel's human rights record as it continues to be put before several human rights panels for scrutiny and judgment. The Israeli government can be effectively silenced on its claims that it is a beacon of light in a sea of darkness. No doubt this realisation would have a bearing on the peace process as the Arab side could now press on harder than ever with its assertion that Israeli practices and policies are not exactly what the Jewish state claims them to be.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily warned that any pressure on Jordan will not help the cause of a just and durable peace, and the continuation of the siege on Aqaba can only deepen the sufferings of the Jordanian people and cause them further economic losses. Taher Al Adwan said that Jordan's demands that the siege end is not a mere tactical move but rather a principled stand since this siege is considered an infringement on the country's sovereignty. The time has come, said the writer, for Washington to realise that there is need to end the injustice so that the peace process can gain credibility in the eyes of the Jordanian people. Since Jordan announced that it was linking its participation in the peace process to the lifting of the siege on Aqaba, no official statement came out from Washington about ending the blockade with the exception of the U.S. secretary of State's announcement that the U.S. was keen on maintaining strong relations with Jordan, said the writer. It would be really disappointing for us if the U.S. secretary, who is shortly coming to the country, failed to bring with him plans for ending the harassment of shipping and the interception of Aqaba-bound vessels, added the writer. Any delay in ending the siege, warned the writer, would only mean that it is meant to destroy the Jordanian economy and weaken the Jordanian negotiating stand.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily Sunday criticised the Israeli government for not backing its words with deeds. Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement that he would pull out Israeli forces from the Golan Heights and end the settlements in the occupied territories in exchange for peace with Arabs, the paper said that nothing has materialised on the ground. On the contrary, it said, the Israelis continue their manoeuvres and provocations at the negotiating table, especially with the Palestinians and are not showing any willingness to end their occupation of Arab land. The paper said that Mr. Rabin's latest statement about intentions to end the settlements was aimed at Warren Christopher, the U.S. Secretary of State, prior to his visit to the Middle East. Definitely the statement bears no significance and would not help Mr. Christopher's mission, said the paper. It is not enough for Israel to express by mere words that it would end the occupation because the Arabs continue to witness otherwise, added the paper.

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuter

BRUSSELS — With the most far-reaching decision so far on using air strikes to try to force an end to the war in Bosnia, NATO has raised the stakes in a dangerous game of poker with the Serbs.

But, despite its military might, the alliance knows that it may not hold the best cards.

Since NATO first threatened the use of air power last August to stop the shelling of Sarajevo, the alliance has been drawn into ever greater involvement in the two-year conflict.

Threats have sometimes worked, as when NATO gave the Serbs 10 days in February to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo or hand them over to U.N. forces. The Serbs complied and there were no NATO strikes.

But, more recently, the Serbs have tested NATO's resolve to the limit, apparently gambling that Western leaders were reluctant to get more involved because of the risks.

The Serbs sent attack planes to bomb a Muslim munitions factory in February, in clear violation of a U.N. ban on flights over Bosnia which NATO has been enforcing. U.S. fighters blasted four of the Serb planes out of the sky.

When the Serbs turned their attention to Gorazde, NATO used air strikes twice to protect U.N. personnel trapped in the town.

The result was that aid workers and others were taken hostage by the Serbs. Russia repeated its opposition to air strikes and the attacks on Gorazde continued.

"The Serbs have called our bluff and now we have to play to the very end," said one NATO diplomat. "This is the



## NATO reaches endgame with Bosnian Serbs

endgame." If it is a poker game, both players hold some good cards.

NATO's latest decision to set a deadline for the withdrawal of Serb forces from Gorazde and to threaten immediate air strikes if Gorazde or any other U.N.-designated "safe area" is attacked gives the military much wider powers for strikes.

The threat of massive attacks from the air, the alliance hopes, will make the Serbs comply because they could otherwise risk losing much of their offensive military might.

NATO officials say the fact that the alliance has already "crossed the rubicon" and used force in Bosnia should help persuade the Serbs that this is no bluff.

NATO's credibility, already damaged by the West's sluggish response to the war and previous divisions among the allies over policy on Bosnia, is also at stake.

On the other side of the table, the Serbs can count several factors in their favour.

They know, as does NATO's military, that air

power has limits, especially in the hilly, wooded terrain of Bosnia.

Not only are targets difficult to hit, there is also the risk of killing civilians caught up in the fighting, something that could turn Western public opinion against further action.

In addition, air power cannot take and hold ground against an attacker.

Peacekeepers in Bosnia are lightly-armed and, despite calls from the U.N. for more to be deployed, the West has no desire to commit ground forces to any action.

"Step by step we may be dragged into a land war which would be by modern standards a tragedy much greater than we have seen in Bosnia," Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu said on Friday, echoing the fears of most Western leaders.

That means the Serbs still have the option of launching retaliatory attacks against U.N. peacekeepers or of taking aid workers hostage if there are NATO strikes, since there will be no allied ground force there to protect them.

NATO says that any air strikes are not designed to end the war by military means but are intended to force the Serbs back to negotiating a wider peace settlement.

But that also presents a problem. Alliance diplomats say that, whatever the Western rhetoric, the firm perception in Belgrade and among the Bosnian Serbs is that NATO and the United Nations have now taken sides in the war and that there may be little desire to negotiate as a result.

Until now, the Serbs have also been able to play the "Russian card" relying on Moscow's strong opposition to NATO action. The West is already worried about Russia's more hardline foreign policy and has been careful to try and coordinate the latest moves with Moscow.

So far, it appears to have paid off and deprived the Serbs of one of their advantages.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kolychev said on Saturday he supported NATO's threat to launch air strikes unless the Serbs stop their attacks on Gorazde.

## Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

## Dangerous currents in Virginia Senate race

ONE OF the most unusual elections in recent U.S. history is unfolding this year in the state of Virginia.

Virginia is one of the original 13 colonies that made the United States. Its people are proud of their traditions and their political history. Four of the U.S. first five presidents came from Virginia: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe. And it was, in part the traditions that were inherited from these "founding fathers" that made politics in Virginia a "gentlemanly art."

It is this proud history that makes many Virginians so upset about this year's Senatorial election. The incumbent is a Democratic Senator who has admitted to numerous sexual affairs, has been accused of attending parties where drugs were used, and his aides have been convicted of wiretapping the phones and taping the conversations of his political opponents. His leading Republican challenger is an admitted liar and was indicated as one of the major figures behind the Iran-Contra scandal. And possibly complicating the race are hints of an independent challenge by a former governor who has repeatedly been accused of self-promotion and mean-spirited political infighting in an effort to discredit his opponents.

This three ring circus has Virginians embarrassed and somewhat bewildered. One Virginia political analyst said, "you would almost think that God is punishing us for past sins by giving us the worst choices in history."

But what makes this race so noteworthy, however, is not how poor the choices are for Virginia's voters, but how the candidates and the election itself are symptomatic of some troubling trends that are undermining U.S. electoral politics.

The incumbent, Democratic Senator Chuck Robb, was not always the embarrassment some feel he has become. He was, not too many years ago, a rising star in American politics.

He was a well-decorated soldier, and was married at a young age in a White House ceremony to Lynda Bird Johnson, the daughter of then-president Lyndon Johnson. Just 10 years later he won his first election as lieutenant governor of the state of Virginia, and four years after that he won election as governor. His tenure in office was extremely successful: He improved the state's educational system and added significantly to Virginia's economic growth. He was so popular when he left office that when he ran for Senate four years later, the incumbent Re-

publican resigned rather than face a certain defeat. In that 1988 Senate election Mr. Robb won by an astounding 71-29 per cent margin and became the biggest Democratic vote-getter in Virginia's history.

He became a leader in the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), the prestigious group that served as the springboard for Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. (In fact, in 1992 many speculated that if Mr. Clinton did not run, Mr. Robb would have been the DLC's choice for president.) He also served successfully as Chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, the group charged with raising money to help elect Democrats to the U.S. Senate.

How is it that this illustrious Senator has fallen from a more than 2-1 victory to the highest unfavourable rating of any sitting U.S. Senator? The answer lies in a number of factors involving both the dangers that politics presents to the egos of those who enter its snare, and the workings of the U.S. press which will leave no stone of a politician's personal life unturned.

Early in Mr. Robb's political career he apparently was captured by the lure of personal power and ego-gratification. He is not the first politician to fall prey to such personal excesses. But, in part because he was so successful, and in part because his image was so clean — his political foes used every negative revelation about him to discredit Mr. Robb with the press. When the press caught hold of the stories about sex and drugs in the Senator's early political career, they ran non-stop investigation and exposed about his behaviour. The effect has been to bring the Senator's reputation to ruin.

But while Mr. Robb's poll ratings are at an all-time low, he retains an enormous war chest of campaign funds (as much as \$2 million), which is enough to scare off most serious Democratic opponents who might challenge him.

Mr. Robb does have two opponents in this year's Democratic primary — a female attorney who has very little name recognition and a little-known populist state Senator from the sparsely populated southern part of the state. Since his opponents will probably not have the money needed to run an effective state-wide campaign, they probably have little chance of defeating him. So despite the lack of strong sentiment behind him, Mr. Robb is likely to emerge as the Democratic candidate in the November election.

On the Republican side, Mr.

Robb's main challenger is Oliver North.

Mr. North, it will be recalled, was the star of the Iran-Contra hearings in the U.S. Senate. He was the Reagan administration National Security Council aide who admitted to illegally funneling money to the Nicaraguan Contra movement, who admitted to lying to Congress about his involvement in the affair, and who admitted to illegally diverting some of the funds he raised for his own personal use.

Nevertheless, it is his very act of defiance in the face of Congress that has made him, for some, a national hero, and a star of the far right of American politics. In the years since the hearings, Mr. North has been on the national lecture circuit and has established a number of fundraising groups that have raised \$25 million to support right wing causes — all of which are controlled by Mr. North. It is this national donor network that Mr. North is tapping to fund his Senate race, for which he believes he will raise \$15 million.

Mainstream Republicans are dismayed by the prospect of Mr. North representing their party in the Senate. Virginia's senior Senator, Republican John Warner, has gone so far as to say that he would not support Mr. North if he becomes the party's nominee to challenge Mr. Robb in November.

And in an unprecedented move, former President Ronald Reagan has written a letter to Virginia Republicans declaring Mr. North to be a liar. In the letter, Mr. Reagan also indirectly supports Mr. North's little-known opponent, James Miller, who also served as an official in the Reagan administration.

Virginia Republican politics has increasingly come to be dominated by the fundamentalist Christian right wing. In the Republican Party's convention, where the Republican nomination will be decided, these fundamentalist activists have gained the upper hand. They are a small but committed group and they support Oliver North. So with big money (\$3 million raised to date) and a core of committed supporters, it looks as if Mr. North may well be Mr. Robb's opponent in November.

So disenchanted are Virginia's voters with the prospect of a Robb-North race. A recent poll showed almost 70 per cent of them hoping that a credible independent candidate would enter the race.

Enter Doug Wilder

Mr. Wilder was Mr. Robb's lieutenant governor, and in

1988 was elected to succeed him as governor. In so doing he became the nation's first African-American governor — a matter of pride for Virginia and the nation. But Mr. Wilder's political actions in his four years in office exposed his weaknesses for self-promotion and political infighting. He has been one of Mr. Robb's most bitter antagonists. As a result of his behaviour, he has the distinction of being one of the only Virginia politicians with a lower approval rating than Chuck Robb. Yet despite all that, he continues to send signs that he may run as an independent in November, challenging both Mr. Robb and Mr. North.

To complicate matters even further, a group of Virginia Republicans is so concerned about Mr. North representing their party that they are putting time and money into preparing the ground for an independent bid by Marshall Coleman.

Mr. Wilder defeated Mr. Coleman in the governor's race four years ago, but the margin was razor-close. Mr. Coleman has not announced his intentions, but he is aware of what the group of Republicans are doing on his behalf and hasn't asked them to stop.

In a potential four-way race, African-Americans will tend to support Mr. Wilder, the Christian far right will support Mr. North, Moderate Republicans will tend to support Mr. Coleman's independent bid and a core of Democratic voters will support Mr. Robb. The outcome is anyone's guess. But what is certain is that this year's Virginia Senate race will be both unusual and a lesson on the dangerous currents at work in U.S. politics.

These dangerous currents are extremely visible in this race. First, there is the pervasive role that big money has come to play in the system. It has reached the point where money has a greater ability to influence elections than do political parties with their millions of members.

The second dangerous current is the ability of the media to play such a large role in determining the public perception of a politician.

The third dangerous current is the influence of the religious right wing in American politics. The danger does not stem so much from the fact that the group is trying to bring religious ideas into politics, but in the fact that the ideology of the Christian right is so very intolerant and exclusive.

The writer is president of the Washington based Arab-American Institute

## LETTERS

## Setting the record straight

To the Editor:

IN REFERENCE to your news in brief (Jordan Times April 23), concerning the prime minister's visit to Aqaba Hotel on Friday, I wish to bring to your attention that the prime minister's visit was confined to the hotel where he inspected the services provided for RJ passengers and other airlines crews and not to the international airport as mentioned in your story.

Dr. Nazih Dabbas,  
General Manager  
Aqaba Hotel,  
Amman.

To the Editor:

READING a report in the Jordan Times (April 13, page 3) about an official visit to Jordan by a foreign dignitary, we were surprised at the Petra news agency's reference to the ancient city of Jerash as a uniquely "Roman" one.

According to history, Jerash was founded by the generals of Alexander the Great in the 4th century B.C. After two centuries of Hellenistic (Greek) culture and civilisation, the city was taken by the Romans. In the 4th century A.D., the city became part of the Byzantine state. In 636 A.D., the entire region (including Jerash) came under Arab sovereignty. Consequently, the Roman presence in Jerash cannot be disputed, but only as a successor to a previous Hellenic (Greek) origin.

Hellenic culture and Greek language were an integral part of the Levantine region for over 3,000 years. They have been responsible for some of the greatest civilisation to exist there. They are part of Arabia. This fact should always be mentioned when describing the ancient Decapolis cities or the church mosaics in Jordan.

Theodoros N. Pantzaris,  
Ambassador of Greece,  
Amman.

## Safe in Jordan

To the Editor:

ONE WEDNESDAY afternoon, during the spring vacation, our science teacher, Mrs. Knittle, was driving around the sixth circle when the clutch in her car suddenly broke down! She said that she pulled over to the side with her baby, and shortly afterwards, two policemen stopped to assist her. One policeman pulled out a tool box, crawled under her car and fixed the clutch while the other took the baby. Shara, who was crying by then, and walked her up and down the road until she was calm.

The incident comes at a time when stories of cruelty against foreigners by Jordanians are influencing Western views. It is a reminder of the safe environment of Jordan. Unfortunately, the only stories most people hear about concerning Arabs are the ones about violence. Mrs. Knittle's story is a proof that Arabs in general are very kind people with a great love for the family, and great respect for mothers. The incident should also remind all of us of the security Jordan provides people with.

Scorpion Tales,  
American Community School,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Human Rights File

### Towards a Jordanian prize for human rights

By Waleed Sadi

WITH THE talks about human rights picking up momentum worldwide at an accelerated speed, we in Jordan have also joined the human rights bandwagon and started to treat the subject as a high priority issue. There is hardly a human rights convention that we have not signed and ratified and in this process signaling our commitment to pursue human rights concerns on several fronts with maximum diligence. I have suggested on an earlier occasion the creation of a high post for human rights in a bid to make coherent our international obligations under the various treaties to which we have become parties. There is an apparent confusion in the country on where we stand on many urgent human rights fronts, something that would call for a human rights strategy established on solid grounds. Human rights has become a specialised field and there is a considerable international jurisprudence on the subject that need to be considered before any country can expect to develop its own position on the multiplying dimensions of human rights. How the international forum on human rights function and how they are related to one another is even confusing to all of us who were part of this international human rights labyrinth.

The more I think about this subject the more I am convinced that establishing a local human rights prize would not only give recognition to those who have contributed substantially and meaningfully to the human rights cause but would also help us focus better on how best to advance the cause locally. I therefore, humbly propose the name of HRH Prince Raad Ben Zaid as the first recipient of the national human rights prize.

When one considers all the magnificent work that Prince Raad has performed locally to help out the handicapped and poor of the country in a manner which remained essentially silent and behind the scenes, one begins to get a glimpse of his outstanding humanistic character. Prince Raad could have chosen the easier path and dealt with

public and state issues and concerns on the highest level. Instead, he chose to work directly with the most unfortunate amongst us, people who seldom receive even the attention of the most junior officials. Prince Raad broke new grounds when it comes to the deaf, blind and muted by personally taking a deep interest in their welfare. What better way to promote human rights than by standing firm and compassionate next to those of us who are the most needy of their basic human rights.

I have known Prince Raad for over a quarter of a century and he has always displayed an exemplary sense of devotion to the deprived and handicapped. What better way to show appreciation and bestow recognition on Prince Raad for all the wonderful work he has done in the country than by according him the Jordanian human rights prize for 1994. Such a step would encourage more Jordanians from all walks of life to also contribute meaningfully to the cause of human rights. This also could serve as the best evidence yet that our country is doubly serious about the basic among them and down the road to other complimentary ones. This way the world would then have a concrete occasion to gauge the depth of the Kingdom's commitment to human rights in matters that count most.

There is a tendency worldwide to accord the political and civil rights of individuals high priority consideration at the expense of other basic human rights. It has been said over and over that the right to life comes ahead of all other aspects of human rights because without the right to life secured there can be no opportunity to enjoy these other human rights. The point of departure for any nation in pursuit of human rights must therefore be respect and protection of the right to life, beginning with the most unfortunate amongst us. What better way to begin this process than by following the footsteps of Prince Raad and start healing the wounds and sufferings of the physically and mentally handicapped within the Jordanian society.

### Pro-Geagea protest prevented

(Continued from page 10)

measures or the shooting, but official sources said they were in line with a government decision to ban demonstrations.

Hundreds of supporters of Dr. Geagea, who was detained on Thursday for questioning on possible links to a church blast and the killing of a Christian leader, have flocked to Bkirkat to protest his detention. The Friday and Saturday protests were peaceful but the crowds chanted anti-government slogans. Some even threatened "rivers of blood" if he was not released soon.

Sunday's crowd also appeared to be sympathetic to Dr. Geagea, although this time they did not express it.

Patriarch Sfeir, whose mass was delayed for 30 minutes, warned the government any unbalanced implementation of the law would unsettle the country.

"Justice will not be justice unless it was for all without any exceptions," he said at the almost empty church. "If it was unbalanced, the basis of the

nation would be unsettled." He added he hoped judges investigating the Feb. 27 church bombing and the assassination of Dani Chamoun and his family would reveal the truth.

The Maronite community has been shocked by a string of events that led up to the banning of the LF, the country's largest Christian militia during the 1975-90 civil war, and the detention of several of its members, including Dr. Geagea.

Patriarch Sfeir has been one of the most outspoken critics of the government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri. He has said in the past Christians were frustrated by the unbalanced policies of the government.

Judicial sources expect Dr. Geagea to be kept in custody for a long time for questioning. The judges investigating the two cases would determine whether to issue an arrest warrant against Dr. Geagea once the questioning is over.

### Boycotted firm seeks contract

(Continued from page 10)

trade barriers and the lifting of the secondary boycott that primarily affects U.S. companies. Motorola, one of the largest American companies, was mentioned in this context, according to Amman-based diplomats.

The U.S. Senate earlier this year passed legislation harring U.S. military sales to countries that try to persuade American firms to comply with the Arab boycott against Israel.

The legislation aims at the so-called secondary and tertiary boycott against U.S. firms doing business with Israel. It is illegal for American firms to observe the boycott by providing related documents required by the governments of the importing countries.

The Arab boycott covers three areas in commercial

activity — the primary boycott hars the 22 members of the Arab League from direct commercial activity with Israel. Egypt has been exempted since it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The secondary boycott, which includes about 10,000 firms, blacklists companies which have a branch, factory or investment in Israel. Firms are regularly put on or struck off the list by the Damascus-based Arab Boycott of Israel Office.

The tertiary boycott targets companies which do business with blacklisted firms in order to avoid being blacklisted themselves.

Officials and diplomats said in private after Mr. Brown's visit that Jordan, coming under U.S. pressure, was adopting a case-by-case approach to the secondary and tertiary boycott.

By Paisley Dodds  
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Bullet-proof vests are selling out, pagers never stop beeping, hotels are packed and cellular phones are part of the dress code.

Less than a week before South Africa's first democratic election, the media have converged on the country with a frenzy not seen since African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela's release from prison in 1990.

But as thousands of correspondents trade their souls for beepers and a chance for bylines in history, they're learning paradise doesn't come without pandemonium.

More than 760 foreign correspondents have been issued temporary accreditation since February to cover the April 26-28 vote, and a total of up to 3,000 are expected to plant their inquisitive feet in the next four weeks.

The numbers aren't surprising considering the story. It will be the first time South Africa's black majority has been able to vote, and Mr. Mandela, once the world's most famous political prisoner, is expected to become the country's first black president.

But outside the perks of cellular phones, executive apartments and fast cars lies Third World confusion, grueling work and deadly conditions.

"After working through the Gorbachev revolution, I thought I was prepared for South Africa, but reality is different once you're on the ground," said Trevor Fishlock of the Sunday Times of London.

This type of ground reality includes waking up at 5 a.m. to track Mr. Mandela's movements, getting lost in desolate rural areas where cellular phones don't work; fighting crushing crowds at disorganised campaign rallies



DANGEROUS ENCOUNTERS: Journalists are advised to stay away from public rallies where they could be the target of violence (AFP photo)

## Media storm as elections near

where stampedes have killed at least three people.

"We're really concerned about the numbers of journalists flocking down here," said Paddy Clay from the South African Union of Journalists, which represents local media.

"When you have a hack pack of this degree, people tend to get angry, especially when journalists mob toward rallies and religious events. There's already enough grassroots antagonism toward the foreign media as it is. These numbers just make the dangers more

imminent."

Antagonism stems from fierce political polarisation, each party believes the media are unfair toward them, and from the white government's long campaign to portray the media as enemies of the state.

In the past year, five journalists have been killed and more than 115 attacked reporting in South Africa. More and more journalists are looking for protection in the form of high-tech body armour designed to ward off anything from a Zulu spear to a slug from an AK-47 assault

rifle.

"In the past two weeks, our business has gone up 35 per cent," said Dennis Heyes of Body Projects, which provides body armour. "We've sold so many bullet-proof vests to foreign journalists that we have had to reorder stock every other day. Danger means big business for us."

The South African Union of Journalists has published a guide for visiting journalists, "Surviving the Story, a Safety Manual for Journalists in South Africa." Among other things, it advises against seat-

belts in violence-torn areas to allow quick escape if a fire-

bomb lands in the car. Carry swim goggles to protect eyes if tear gas is used at a rally, and always have a warm sweater in case you get thrown in a cold, damp jail cell.

Some of these dangers seem dated, tear gas isn't used with nearly the intensity as it was during the height of apartheid, and rather than tossing reporters in jail, the government has begun welcoming them.

Prior to 1990, it could take up to four months to obtain a

work visa. Many foreigner journalists were expelled for portraying the government in an unfavourable light, and many local journalists were detained years without trial.

Now, as South Africa fights its way into the international arena, the government is relying on the media to speed up the process.

"We want the international media here. That's why we've designed a special accreditation process specifically for the elections," said Tshepo Mashangu. "Now you can get your government press card within 10 minutes."

### Israel, PLO resume talks

(Continued from page 1)

turned down a NATO request at about midday Saturday for authorisation to bomb.

U.N. officials office play down true violations to avoid having to order airstrikes that could escalate fighting and wreck fragile negotiations. Clear violations of the NATO-imposed heavy weapons ban around Sarajevo routinely have been overlooked as long as they pose no immediate danger to the city.

A 14-truck U.N. relief convoy carrying nearly 90 tonnes of food to Gorazde left Belgrade early Sunday. Bosnian Serbs blocked it at Dobrun, 35 kilometres northeast of Gorazde, for several hours before letting it pass.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic disputed reports that Gorazde was calm on Sunday, saying Serb infan-

### U.N. consolidates Gorazde truce

(Continued from page 1)

try had attacked near a munitions factory which lies within the exclusion zone.

A Gorazde town official, Esad Ocranovic, said over ham radio that "snipers killed three people and wounded seven others between midnight and midday." He also reported Serb tank activity inside the exclusion area.

"The population of the eastern Bosnian town has swollen to 65,000 as civilians fled the Serb offensive through the Gorazde enclave.

The offensive against Gorazde has cost Bosnian Serbs the support of Russia, Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev backed the ultimatum although Moscow earlier criticised NATO's involvement.

He told interfax news agency the BSA's actions "issued a criminal challenge to the elementary norms of humane behaviour."

### Regulations to be reviewed

(Continued from page 1)

and encouraging residents to stick to their land and areas.

Prince Hassan said the environmental issue was not an aesthetic issue aimed only at preventing the destruction of animals and plants. It should also address desertification and gradual erosion of cultivated land, Prince Hassan said. He warned of the consequences of tampering with the environment and infrastructure.

Prince Hassan said the talk and gossip about unemployment figures could sometimes be made up with a view to undermining the cohesion of the society.

The Crown Prince pointed out that official reports issued by the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) concluded that 13 to 15 per cent of applicants for jobs with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) are working secretly in the private sector. Yet, we

are talking about take-for-granted high unemployment figures," the Crown Prince said.

The DEF conclusion was the result of a comparison between CSC applicants and holders of social security numbers at the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who attended the meeting, called for coordination among the secretaries-general and for finding linkages between the ministries and government departments.

Dr. Majali said government apparatus "are not separate empires but are parts of an integrated body."

Planning Minister Ziad Fariz explained Jordan's development trends and the economic, political and social dimensions of the five-year development plan (1993-1997). He said that the plan focuses on addressing the poverty and unemployment problems and ensuring economic growth in all sectors.

### Hamas wants self-rule share

(Continued from page 1)

prisoner release will be a testing ground for how much leverage Mr. Arafat could win with Hamas.

According to Hamas officials, up to 3,000 Hamas supporters have been arrested since the Hamas suicide attack in Afula on April 6. Israel has said that it will not release prisoners who belong to political groups opposed to the negotiations. The prisoners held by Israel now range between 11,000 and 12,000, PLO sources say.

Palestinian negotiator Nabile Shaath has stressed in

his talks with the Israelis that the PLO needs to obtain the release of prisoners from all parties to retain its status as negotiator for all Palestinians.

But Hamas is betting on the inability of the PLO to obtain such terms for a prisoner release from the Israelis.

"When Israel lets only Fateh prisoners out it will be a big plus for us. It will expose Arafat as the leader of Fateh not of the Palestinians," said the Amman-based Hamas official.

Asked if a weakened Arafat is the best negotiating partner on behalf of the Palestinians, the Hamas spokesman said: "He is the leader only until elections take place."

### Settler attacked

(Continued from page 1)

of a woman a day earlier on government policies."

One banner read: "We're dying for peace." The settlers chanted "we're fed up with the Hamas government," a reference to the Islamic group.

Israel permitted five Palestinians formerly wanted by Israel for involvement with the armed cells of the PLO to return to Gaza from Egypt on Wednesday, a goodwill gesture to the PLO as part of the peace talks. Dozens have been allowed back over the past weeks.

### House waters down law

(Continued from page 1)

He said the government needs to be able to efficiently adjust the items exempted in order to accommodate new economic realities and developments that could emerge.

But Mr. Abul Ragheb rejected this argument, saying the law should specify the items exempted to protect low-income citizens and prevent the government from reducing the number of these items.

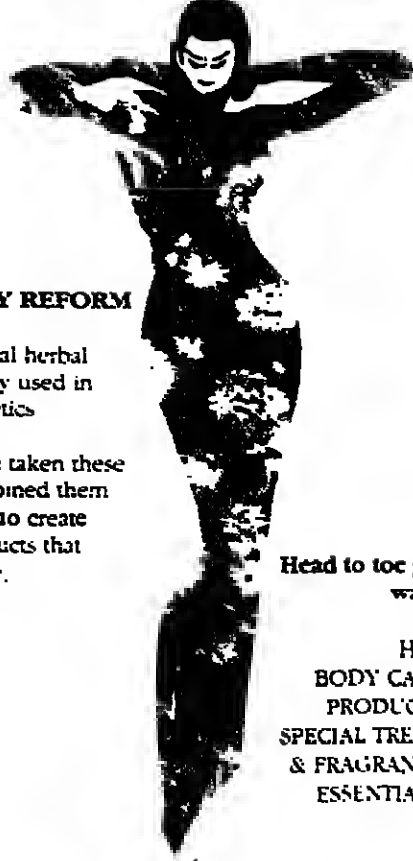
He said the government could succumb to pressure from certain bodies like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as happened when the

fund demanded that 16 new items be included in the consumption tax which the draft law would replace.

Mr. Abul Ragheb's statement drew an angry reaction from Dr. Majali, who said the government "does not succumb to pressure from anybody" and demanded that Mr. Abul Ragheb withdraw his remarks.

The House is scheduled to resume its debate of the controversial 51-article legislation Tuesday amid clear indications that both the government and the Financial Committee are heading towards more confrontations and will continue to lobby deputies for support.

## From Head to Toe all Natural Beauty



### WELCOME TO BODY REFORM

Over the centuries, natural herbal extracts have been widely used in the preparation of cosmetics and toiletries.

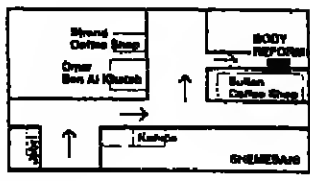
We at Body Reform have taken these age-old secrets and combined them with modern techniques to create unique beauty care products that are the ultimate in luxury.

Head to toe grooming the natural way with Body Reform.

HAIR CARE, SKIN CARE, BODY CARE, MALE GROOMING PRODUCTS, BABY PRODUCTS, SPECIAL TREATMENTS, COSMETICS & FRAGRANCES, AROMATHERAPY ESSENTIAL OILS, GIFT BASKETS

## At Body Reform

Total Beauty Care. Totally Natural





## U.S. textile imports top \$36b

out by mid-June the details of a market-opening plan it unveiled to Washington as evidence of its intention to cut its annual \$50-billion trade surplus with the United States.

"We're going to decide on macro-economic policies that are not aimed just at reducing the surplus but also at improving the quality life of the Japanese people," Mr. Hata said.

The package is needed to help persuade the United States to reopen deadlocked economic framework talks in order to avert the threat of trade sanctions later this year.

## Latin American nations stand firm against trade conditions

tures... and to protect children, especially homeless and abandoned children," Mr. Pangalos said.

Host nation Brazil in particular has been criticised abroad for failing to adequately protect its street children and Indian people from violence, abuse and exploitation.

Addressing fears in Latin America that the region might be in danger of losing its past favourable trade position in relation to Europe, Mr. Pangalos said the European market was open for business.

...ean Union is the

# Britain's economy picked up steam in first quarter — analysts

Kenneth Clarke hinted he also thought this might be the case in a radio interview early on Thursday, saying: "No-one can accuse me of getting too over-excited about good news but the fact is we have the hard evidence showing the economy

March industrial output figures have yet to be released, but many analysts are predicting a one per cent increase for the quarter as a whole after a big 0.8 per cent jump in February.

Service sector growth — which accounts for more than two thirds of total national output and has made the biggest contribution to Britain's

A likely rise in government spending ahead of the new financial year coupled with

healthy growth in car registrations, all add weight to the positive outlook, Warburg economist Darren Winder said.

According to European Union (EU) figures, Latin American exports to Europe fell to 22 billion ECUs, or European Currency Units (\$25 billion) in 1993 from 25 billion ECUs (\$28 billion) in 1990. In contrast, European exports to

Latin America jumped to 23 billion ECUs (\$26 billion) in 1993 from 15 billion ECUs (\$17 billion) in 1990.

we were aware Latin America represented a big potential market for Europe and were ready to be flexible over the social issues question.

In their declaration, the European Union and Rio Group ministers also vowed to fight terrorism and drug trafficking.

## speed up, the plan

possibility of expanding the scope of AFTA to include new areas shows ASEAN's determination towards greater regional economic integration, said S.B. Joedono, Indonesia's trade minister.

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, set up a programme in 1992 to gradually tear down tariffs on 15 groups of manufactured products covering 40,000 items towards achieving AFTA in 15 years.

turner Products (BCP) which Volvo is in the process of acquiring in full.

Shareholders approved Volvo's bid for BCP, giving Mr. Gyll the thumbs-up for this key part of his restructuring plan. The terms of the offer, based on one Volvo share for six BCP shares, will mean Volvo issuing new shares and in an attempt to see the owners agreed to this.

Volvo currently also owns 27.5 per cent of the capital in drugmaker Pharmacia, acquired as part of a complex deal with the government last year under which it has promised not to sell a 25 per


1999 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.  
© All Rights Reserved

SUMEO

DUMPIO

WHAT HELPED  
KEEP HER DRY  
IN THE RAIN.

form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

“  ”

(Answers tomorrow)

DAILY AIRWAY MAROON

They took to grandma's house —

ROAD

14	Swiss river	17					18
15	— d'état	20					
16	Sleep sound						
17	Animated horline						23
19	Piece of art	34	23	28	23		
20	Perceptive	34					
21	Sir Isaac —	38					
22	Wind dir.						
23	Residence hall						

62				48	88				
63			88		48				
				43	63				
			67						
							50	59	61
65									

es, Inc.

**Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:**

SABO GARDON FAWN  
AWLS EGGAT OSMA  
GOOSEFEATHERPEN  
ALPARIAN RAST  
DEM FRAG  
ACROSS MIDTENS  
GRAT POSSE MA

[illegible]

3 Cries loudly	58 Rent
4 Snakes	59 Military truant
5 Hint	60 Antelope
6 Uncommon	

**POP SAID MRS. GLOTZ  
EATS LIKE A HORSE!**

JEFFREY S. TAYLOR  
© 1978 THE PAPER SERVICE, INC.

**THE Daily Crossword** by Rena M. Campbell

62				48	88				
63			88		48				
				43	63				
			67						
65						50	59	60	61

es, Inc.

**Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:**

SABO GARDON FAWN  
AWLS EGGAT OSMA  
GOOSEFEATHERPEN  
ALPARIAN RAST  
DEM FRAG  
ACROSS MIDTENS  
GRAT POSSE MA

AUTOCORRECTION COPY  
 DATE 01/17/81  
 BY 00000000  
 FROM 00000000  
 TO 00000000  
 SUBJECT 00000000  
 SIGNATURE 00000000  
 RATE 00000000  
 TIME 00000000

3 Cries loudly	58 Rent
4 Snakes	59 Military truant
5 Hint	60 Antelope
6 Uncommon	







## S. Africa bomb blast kills 7

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A powerful bomb exploded near offices of the radical Pan Africanist Congress and Nelson Mandela's ANC in central Johannesburg Sunday, killing seven people and wounding dozens, police and a hospital said.

The blast, which shattered nearby buildings and set fire to parked cars, coincided with the last day of official campaigning for South Africa's historic all-race elections, which begin Tuesday.

Robert Odes, Johannesburg General Hospital medical superintendent, said ambulance staff had reported seven killed. "Seven in total, one dead here, six on the scene," he told reporters. He said 79 people had been wounded.

Police said it was too early to tell the target. They estimated the size of the bomb, which was in or under a car, at 80 to 90 kilograms.

"It is clearly aimed at scaring people on the eve of the election," Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) General Secretary Beny Alexander told Reuters. "It seems the bomb was aimed at us."

ANC spokesman Carl

Niehaus agreed it was an assault on the election which will end 342 years of white domination.

"I am convinced this is a direct attack on democracy and the election. I hope people will not be intimidated by this and will deal with this through the ballot box this week," he said.

Another spokesman for the PAC, one of 27 parties contesting the three-day elections, said a man speaking in the Afrikaans language of many conservative whites had made a hostile telephone call before the blast.

Members of the white far right, which is boycotting the polls and demanding an Afrikaner Volkstaat or white homeland, have issued veiled threats to disrupt the poll, which the ANC is expected to win.

Police linked white rightwingers to bomb blasts last week, including an attack on a regional office of the Independent Electoral Commission, which is running the elections for national and regional assemblies.

White rightists fighting to save apartheid have been blamed for bomb attacks on small rural ANC offices in conservative heartlands but have

never undertaken an attack of this size.

Witnesses said one dead man was apparently white. Several buildings were badly damaged, cars were burning and water from burst mains flooded the streets.

ANC leader Nelson Mandela, almost certain to become South Africa's first black president, was wrapping up his campaign in the port city of Durban, capital of the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal.

Police were out in force there following the murder by an angry mob Saturday of three ANC officials distributing election leaflets in Uthmaniyah, capital of the black homeland of KwaZulu and stronghold of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Police chiefs sent reinforcements into Johannesburg's black township of Soweto where Mr. Buthelezi was wrapping up his last minute election campaign.

Mr. Buthelezi's party decided to run only last Tuesday after striking a deal with the government and ANC on the Zulu monarchy and position of the KwaZulu-Natal heartland in the new South Africa.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in fighting over four years of apartheid reform, mainly between Inkatha and ANC supporters.

Political sources expressed fears of revenge attacks for the Uthmaniyah killings by ANC supporters on Zulus attending the rally in Soweto, an ANC stronghold where locals have clashed frequently with mainly Zulu hostel dwellers.

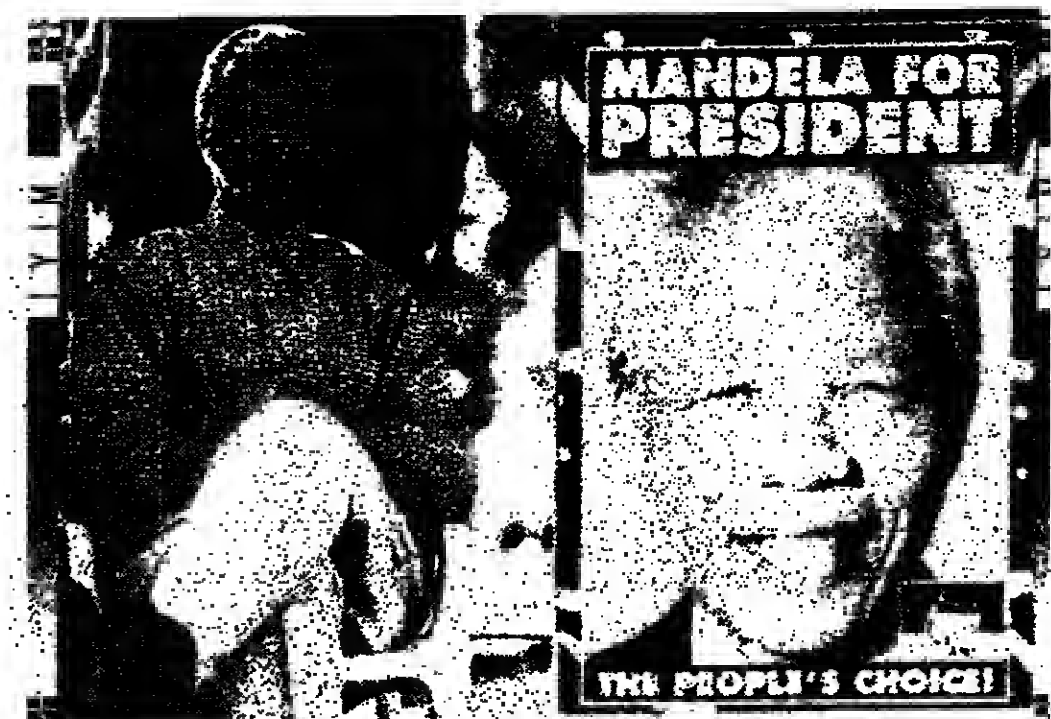
"Clearly the last thing we want is violence, so it won't be coming from us," Inkatha spokeswoman Suzanne Vos said.

Police and troops in armoured vehicles cordoned off the streets around the two black liberation movements' offices in Johannesburg's Hillbrow area after the blast.

PAC regional communications head Mandla Cebekhulu said an angry caller speaking with an Afrikaner accent had telephoned.

"He said: 'I am not going to vote for this damned PAC', before he put down the phone," Mr. Cebekhulu told Reuters.

"After about 10 minutes there was this explosion and people started panicking."



African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela is seated next to an election campaign poster as he listens to an ANC official after he addressed a 20,000 strong supporters at the Soweto stadium three days ahead of South Africa's all race national elections (AFP photo)

## Rwanda peace talks fail to start as carnage rages unabated

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AFP) — Efforts to bring Rwanda's interim government and rebels to the negotiating table here failed Sunday as carnage raged unabated in the central African nation and spread further in neighbouring Burundi.

Up to 100,000 people have now been killed in 17 days of bloodletting in Rwanda, according to latest figures from the Red Cross.

U.N. officials here reported continued clashes Sunday in Rwanda and "heavy fighting" in Burundi, which shares Rwanda's blood-soaked history of ethnic feuding between the minority Tutsi and majority Hutu tribes.

Burundi, still reeling from the massacres of tens of thousands of people last year after the assassination of its first Hutu president, had until now avoided the genocide that engulfed Rwanda after both countries' presidents died in a mysterious April 6 plane crash.

In Rwanda, the mainly Tutsi rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) has declared a unilateral ceasefire from midnight Monday.

But it warned that the truce would only hold if the predominantly Hutu government forces stopped slaughtering Tutsi civilians and opposition supporters in territory they control within 96 hours of the start of the ceasefire.

Front Secretary General Theogene Rudasingwa held talks Sunday with Tanzanian Prime Minister John Mulecella. Diplomats said Mr. Mulecella was trying to persuade him to drop the RPF's refusal to negotiate with Rwanda's interim government, proclaimed after the president's death, but not recognised by the Front which branded it "a clique of killers."

The government delegates, including Interior Minister Faustin Munyazesa and at least two senior military officers, failed to turn up for the Tanzanian-brokered peace talks that had been scheduled to open here Saturday.

They had still not arrived by 1:00 p.m. Sunday (1000 GMT), diplomats and U.N. officials seemed confused about their whereabouts.

Some said they had driven to Zaire and then flown to the Kenyan capital Nairobi, and would arrive in this northern Tanzanian town later Sunday.

But a senior U.N. official said the chances of face-to-face talks Sunday between rebel and government representatives were "about one per cent."

Tanzanian Foreign Minister Joseph Rwigasira meanwhile welcomed the Front's ceasefire declaration as "a good development."

He said Tanzania, which brokered peace accords signed by Rwanda's rebels and government here last August, had "not expected the Front to reject talks."

"We anticipated that both sides would take part in the meeting," Mr. Rwigasira said. The talks failed despite frenzied diplomatic efforts by Tanzania, the United Nations and the Organisation of African

Unity (OAU). Criticism of the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Rwanda has mounted since the world body decided to withdraw almost 90 per cent of its troops from Rwanda amid fears for their safety.

The slashing of the peacekeeping force from 2,500 to 270 prompted harsh criticism from aid agencies and OAU Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim.

Mr. Rudasingwa, meanwhile, criticised the U.N. in Rwanda for being "ineffectual on the ground."

He said the Front had written to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to complain about U.N. special envoy Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh's "poor performance."

"He is partly responsible for what has happened in Rwanda in the past few weeks," Mr. Rudasingwa said, adding he was disappointed that the U.N. had apparently recognised the unelected interim government.

He said the U.N. had stood on the sidelines while Western countries armed the government, which in turn had armed extremist militias he blamed for the killings.

"We are absolutely not willing to talk today," Mr. Rudasingwa added. "It's up to the other side to show us first what they mean to do by observing the ceasefire."

He said the rebels were not "going for revenge" but wanted an international tribunal to investigate "the holocaust and genocide" and punish those responsible.

## Ukraine, Russia far apart in fleet dispute

KIEV (R) — Ukraine and Russia remain far apart in resolving an increasingly bitter dispute over the Black Sea Fleet, but will have to swallow their pride to pursue negotiations on where to base naval forces in the region.

The row over the fleet is probably the most intractable separating the two most powerful former Soviet republics.

The latest round of talks, at the Soviet-era fleet's headquarters in Sevastopol, broke down in acrimony Friday after Russia rejected Ukrainian proposals on allocating bases.

Each side blamed the other — a week after President Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin had agreed to split the fleet's ships 50-50 and gave negotiators 10 days to work out

details. Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said the outcome suggested Ukraine was "losing control over the situation and becoming increasingly inconsistent and unpredictable both in word and in deed."

"In connection with the current situation... President Yeltsin is holding intensive consultations with competent (state) bodies," he added.

Ukrainian President Kravchuk took a more conciliatory line in a flurry of weekend interviews.

He said last week's negotiating debacle should not be dramatised and that presidents and prime ministers could succeed where defence ministers had failed.

"I spoke to (Russian Prime Minister Viktor) Chernomyrdin and proposed meeting at the governmental or presidential level, along with appropriate ministers and experts, to take decisions," he said in one of a series of interviews.

"This is not an issue for ministers to solve. It is an issue which presidents and governments must decide."

Negotiators last week shared out more than 800 vessels, giving just under 20 per cent to Ukraine and entitling Kiev to sell the remainder of its 50 per cent share to Russia.

But the sticking point was the port of Sevastopol, a long-standing symbol of Russian military glory on the Crimean peninsula — once ruled by Moscow and transferred to Ukraine only in 1954.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said the outcome suggested Ukraine was "losing control over the situation and becoming increasingly inconsistent and unpredictable both in word and in deed."

He said last week's negotiating debacle should not be dramatised and that presidents and prime ministers could succeed where defence ministers had failed.

"I spoke to (Russian Prime Minister Viktor) Chernomyrdin and proposed meeting at the governmental or presidential level, along with appropriate ministers and experts, to take decisions," he said in one of a series of interviews.

"This is not an issue for ministers to solve. It is an issue which presidents and governments must decide."

Negotiators last week shared out more than 800 vessels, giving just under 20 per cent to Ukraine and entitling Kiev to sell the remainder of its 50 per cent share to Russia.

But the sticking point was the port of Sevastopol, a long-standing symbol of Russian military glory on the Crimean peninsula — once ruled by Moscow and transferred to Ukraine only in 1954.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said the outcome suggested Ukraine was "losing control over the situation and becoming increasingly inconsistent and unpredictable both in word and in deed."

He said last week's negotiating debacle should not be dramatised and that presidents and prime ministers could succeed where defence ministers had failed.

"I spoke to (Russian Prime Minister Viktor) Chernomyrdin and proposed meeting at the governmental or presidential level, along with appropriate ministers and experts, to take decisions," he said in one of a series of interviews.

"This is not an issue for ministers to solve. It is an issue which presidents and governments must decide."

Negotiators last week shared out more than 800 vessels, giving just under 20 per cent to Ukraine and entitling Kiev to sell the remainder of its 50 per cent share to Russia.

But the sticking point was the port of Sevastopol, a long-standing symbol of Russian military glory on the Crimean peninsula — once ruled by Moscow and transferred to Ukraine only in 1954.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said the outcome suggested Ukraine was "losing control over the situation and becoming increasingly inconsistent and unpredictable both in word and in deed."

He said last week's negotiating debacle should not be dramatised and that presidents and prime ministers could succeed where defence ministers had failed.

## Moscow residents clean up city

MOSCOW (AP) — Reviving an old Soviet custom, Moscowites took up mops, brooms and rakes Saturday to give the city a spring cleaning. Across the city, grandmothers, soldiers, politicians, children, husbands and wives could be seen sweeping city sidewalks or raking leaves in parks. The voluntary cleanup, known as a "Subbotnik," was the idea of Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov. It was intended to spruce up the city which was left with muddy streets and littered parks after the spring thaw. In Soviet days, workers across the country "volunteered" a free day's work two times a year, but until Mikhail Gorbachev became president in 1986, turnout was in reality compulsory. Mr. Gorbachev decreed that "subbotniks" should be truly voluntary, and the custom quickly disappeared because no one showed up.

## Prayer book stops bullet meant for nuns

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A prayer book may have saved the life of a nun shot by a fleeing armed robber, police said. Two nuns were speaking to a police officer in front of the sisters Servants of Mary Convent Thursday when a fleeing armed robber fired at them several times, apparently thinking the policeman was going to give chase, police said. A bullet passed through the prayer book of one nun, then hit her in the hip. The 38-year-old woman was treated and released at a hospital. Police would not release her name. "It is a sign that God was protecting us all," said the uninjured nun, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The officer also was uninjured. The gunman escaped. Police spokesman Sgt. Marlon Deffilo said police were still searching for a man who is wanted in connection with at least 16 armed robberies of convenience stores.

## Russia rationalises the demon drink

MOSCOW (AFP) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, in a move harking back to the Soviet era, reestablished a state monopoly on the sale, production and storage of alcohol Saturday, ITAR-TASS news agency said. A resolution he signed described the measure as aimed at "defending the state's economic interests and the rights of consumers." It would affect "all enterprises... including joint companies," meaning Russian and foreign-owned firms. The government will have a month to give out licenses for production, storage and sale of alcohol, and must also work out annual forecasts for volume of output and sales, as well as imports and exports, the agency said.

## Geriatric U.K. falcon in illegal bird sales

LONDON (R) — A Briton trying to set himself up as a professional falconer used an innocent peregrine falcon so old it had lost its mating call to "launder" illegally-raised chicks for sale, a newspaper said Saturday. John Edwards, 27, a former gamekeeper to the Earl of Egremont on his southern English estate at Perworth, sold five young falcons for £500 (£745) each. He hatched them from eggs stolen from the wild and passed them off as the offspring of the aged falcon, a court heard. But genetic tests carried out on the birds proved the alleged parent could not have fathered any of the offspring, the Daily Telegraph said. "He was geriatric and couldn't make the mating call," prosecuting lawyer Ralph Furness told the court in Chichester, southern England. Falcons are a protected species and it is illegal to take eggs from the wild. Mr. Edwards pleaded guilty to five charges of possessing and selling wild peregrine falcons.

## Hidden cameras watch U.K. phones to beat crime

ONDON (R) — British telephone booths are being fitted with hidden cameras the size of a fingertip in an effort to catch thieves breaking into their cash boxes, a newspaper said Saturday. The cameras begin filming when their high-tech sensors detect any tampering with the coin box and relay pictures to a control room, the London Times newspaper said. British Telecom (BT) aims to fit up to 500 gadgets in booths across Hampshire, southern England, by the end of the year, it added.

## Generals 'defied' Yeltsin in October crisis

LONDON (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, in memoirs to be published next month, has revealed that his top generals defied him and his elite special forces units refused orders during last October's political showdown in Moscow.

Only a stray bullet which killed a special forces officer persuaded the other member of the elite units to follow orders and storm the parliamentary White House, according to extracts from the book published in the Sunday Times.

Mr. Yeltsin's account confirmed that he came within a whisker of losing power last October because of outright resistance by the army to his orders. "The country was truly hanging by a thread," he wrote. The book, *The View From The Kremlin*, will be published by Harper Collins on May 3.

Although there were reports of military hesitation soon after the October crisis, Mr. Yeltsin's account makes clear that the resistance to his orders went much further than he acknowledged at the time.

Troops finally stormed the White House on Oct. 4, 1993, after riots the previous day which turned into an armed uprising. Officially 147 people died in the two days of fighting.

Mr. Yeltsin said that at 5 a.m. on the morning of Oct. 4, two hours after he had given orders for the operation, he was called to meet officers of the elite Vypel and Alfa units of Presidential Troops, who had been assigned the key role in the assault.

"Thirty of them were waiting for me as they rose to greet me. As I faced them, I could not escape a sense of trepidation and grief. I looked at them one by one almost all of them lowered their eyes."

"I barked: 'Are you prepared to fulfil the president's order?' There was only silence — a terrible, inexplicable silence. Nobody uttered a word."

"I waited for a minute still nobody uttered a word. I finally growled: 'Then I'll put it another way. Are you refusing to obey the president's order?' again, silence. I turned on my heel and strode towards the door, calling out that the order must be obeyed."

Mr. Yeltsin said the two units still refused to take part and "dug their heels in", refusing to go nearer than 500 metres to the White House.

Only when a sniper killed one of their officers did the elite units agree to go into action.

Earlier in the night, Mr. Yeltsin faced similar insubordination from his top military brass. Despite promises from Defence Minister Pavel Grachev that regular troops would enter Moscow at any minute, they had remained outside the city's ring road.

Mr. Yeltsin, denying that he panicked during the crisis, wrote that the reason he did not appeal on television for public support was that he was too busy arguing with his top military leaders.

I was trying to bring my combat generals out of their state of stress and paralysis.

## N. Korean offer 'may be bid to stampede' IAEA

VIENNA (R) — North Korea's offer to let international inspectors witness refuelling of its main atomic reactor comes with a time limit and may be less promising than it seems, diplomatic sources said Sunday.

Diplomats involved in the row over North Korea's suspected nuclear bomb project fear that, after months of stonewalling capped by an abortive mission in March, North Korea could now be simply trying to stampede the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into a rush inspection, once again incomplete.

If so, the North may be courting economic sanctions by the United States and its Asian allies.

The IAEA says inspecting the spent fuel core of the Yongbyon reactor is vital to finding out if North Korea has been secretly diverting nuclear material, and therefore wel-

come an invitation. But both the agency and Washington reacted guardedly, the U.S. clearly suspecting North Korea of again playing for time to complete the next phase of an alleged atomic weapons project.

"The thing is, they've asked us to come and remove the (IAEA) seals from the reactor and they've given us 10 days," one diplomatic source close to the agency said.

"That's why there's this pressure to move quickly."

The IAEA is required by the U.N. to verify that there has been no diversion of nuclear materials to a covert project. It responded positively.

A second diplomat said North Korea's 10-day offer had put the U.N. safeguards agency on the spot. IAEA Director General Hans Blix now "has to decide whether this is worth doing" or hold out for solid and satisfactory terms, he said.

## USSR plotted to arm the IRA, Yeltsin says

LONDON (R) — The Soviet Union plotted to arm the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the early years of the Northern Ireland conflict, according to the published memoirs of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Britain's Sunday Times newspaper, which is serialising Mr. Yeltsin's book, said the KGB arranged a secret arms shipment to the IRA between 1969 and 1972 in an operation overseen by Yuri Andropov, who was later to become Soviet leader.

Mr. Yeltsin's *The View From The Kremlin* quotes from KGB files about a plan for the IRA to pick up bundles of weapons dropped from a Soviet ship at a spot in the sea just north of the island of Ireland, the newspaper said.

The deal was set up using an Irish Communist middleman in three years of painstaking negotiations between Soviet intelligence and the IRA, which in 1969 began its violent campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland.

The files are not clear about whether the plan actually went ahead but Mr. Yeltsin said he believed it probably did, according to the Sunday Times account of the memoirs.

It said the arms negotiations were documented in eight memos from Mr. Andropov which show the Kremlin was worried about supplying weapons which might be traced back to the Soviet Union.

One memo dated Oct. 21, 1970 speaks of a draft plan to deliver 100 German assault rifles, nine machine guns and 20 pistols in a sea drop to be codenamed Operation Splash.

The Sunday Times quoted the then IRA Chief of Staff Cathal Goulding as confirming talks did take place with the Soviet Union but denying that any arms shipment was ever received.

The report quoted the Irish Communist cited in the files, Michael O'Riordan, as denying all knowledge of any arms operation.

## Vatican, Latin Americans prevent abortion consensus

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Vatican, backed strongly by several Latin American states, has been successful in blocking agreement on key points of an action programme to stabilise the world's population in the next century.

Battle lines were drawn at a turbulent three-week public preparatory meeting at the United Nations that ended over the weekend with such issues as abortion, family planning and access to contraception for adolescents still unresolved.

Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Ecuador and, to a lesser extent, Argentina and Venezuela, backed Vatican opposition to outlawing abortion under any circumstances and circumscribing family planning to married couples.

This group was supported by Malta, Benin and Mali and at times Morocco and the Ivory Coast but opposed by Brazil, which has a third of Latin America's population. Nicaragua went further than the Vatican by insisting the word "reproduction" be replaced by

"procreation."

The Roman Catholic Church opposes abortion under any circumstances as well as artificial means of birth control.

Many European Union states bled off increasing financing for long-range programmes until after the document is completed in September at a key international conference on population and development in Cairo.

"We will compromise on language," one EU delegate told Reuters. "But there is a limit. We want to see the quality of the document. It must have some compassionate language on abortion without treading on the legal rights of governments."

He was referring to compromise proposals that ask states to deal with the health hazards of botched abortions the World Health Organisation says kill 400 women daily.

Conference declarations are nearly always adopted by consensus rather than a vote, which means a minority can stall agreement on any issue.

## All saved after Australian plane crash

SYDNEY (R) — A DC-3 airplane carrying 25 people crashed into Sydney's Botany Bay shortly after takeoff Sunday but fishing boats managed to rescue all aboard before the plane sank 15 minutes later.

All 23 passengers and two crew members were taken to hospital after being plocked from the water by several boats that converged on the plane 50 metres from the runway at Sydney's International Airport.

"None suffered serious injuries — a couple of broken bones here and there but nothing major," a police spokesman said.

"Any further out to sea and it would have been a different story," another policeman told reporters.

The plane, owned by South Pacific Air, had been chartered by the Australian army for a trip to Norfolk Island, 1,500 kilometres east of Australia, for a reunion of winners of the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest military bravery award.

The passengers included a dozen members of the Scot's College Pipe Band, journalists and several war veterans who were to take part in ANZAC Day ceremonies Monday to honour war dead from Australia and New Zealand.

Reporter David McNicol of The Australian newspaper, who was aboard the two-engine propeller-driven plane, said its port engine failed shortly after takeoff.

"We got up to about 300 feet (100 metres)... the port engine gave a couple of coughs and died," Mr. McNicol told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio at the scene.

"The plane then started losing altitude," he said.

"We came around in a big circle, obviously the pilot was trying to get us back on the runway but he just couldn't make it and we slammed pretty heavily into the water."

Advanced policy towards women and nothing was done after him in those areas," she said.

Tina Anselmi, a former Christian Democrat and World War II resistance fighter, said Ms. Pivetti needed a history lesson.

"If fascism, whose 'good things' she praises, had had its way we wouldn't even have a parliament," Ms. Anselmi said.

Under fascism, women were banned from most high-level jobs and had no right to vote. They received state aid for having several children.

"Everyone knows Mussolini's family policies were based on the very dictates of war," said Beppe Del Colle, a leading Roman Catholic Church affairs commentator.

"The family was simply understood as the factory of the future fighters of an imperial Italy," he said.

Ms. Pivetti said her remarks "referred to the pre-war social reality in Italy" and were taken out of context.

But they added to concern over the politics of the right-wing "Freedom Alliance" led

## Jews, Catholics criticise Italy's new top woman

ROME (R) — The leader of Italy's new parliament, 31-year-old Irene Pivetti, faces a flood of criticism for perceived anti-semitic and pro-fascist remarks just a week after her election.

Ms. Pivetti, a member of the federalist Northern League, made history on April 16 when she became the youngest parliamentary speaker in Italy since World War II with her election as leader of the Chamber of Deputies (lower house).

Her first week in one of Italy's highest institutional offices was called a "disaster" by the newspaper *La Repubblica* at the weekend after Roman Catholics, Jews and feminists criticised her for a rash of statements.

The latest furor erupted over an interview the staunchly conservative Catholic gave to the right-wing weekly *Italia Settimanale* in which she voiced admiration for the women's policies of wartime fascist dictator Benito Mussolini.

While Pivetti said she did not support fascism she said she "could see all the good things fascism did for Italy."

"Mussolini had the most

advanced policy towards women and nothing was done after him in those areas," she said.

Tina Anselmi, a former Christian Democrat and World War II resistance fighter, said Ms. Pivetti needed a history lesson.

"If fascism, whose 'good things' she praises, had had its way we wouldn't even have a parliament," Ms. Anselmi said.

Under fascism, women were banned from most high-level jobs and had no right to vote. They received state aid for having several children.

"Everyone knows Mussolini's family policies were based on the very dictates of war," said Beppe Del Colle, a leading Roman Catholic Church affairs commentator.

"The family was simply understood as the factory of the future fighters of an imperial Italy," he said.

Ms. Pivetti said her remarks "referred to the pre-war social reality in Italy" and were taken out of context.



## Ahli, Abbasi move into 2nd round of U-22 basketball championship

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three matches remain before the first round of the under-22 basketball tournament ends, paving the way for the top four of the nine competing teams to qualify to the second round and fight for the first of the season's basketball titles.

The participating teams have been divided into two groups: Group 1 includes Al Ahli, Al Abbasi, Homentmen, Yarmouk and Abu Nusair, while the second group includes Al Jazireh, Al Ahli, Al Watani, and Gazzet Hashem.

Group 1 teams have already completed their matches with Al Ahli and Al Abbasi moving to the second round.

Al Ahli Saturday topped group 1 standings when they beat Al Abbasi 98-65, the first half ending 53-32.

Al Abbasi also proved that their under-22 team means business when they became the first team to qualify for the second round of the tournament — the first of the season's 12 competitions organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Abbasi, formerly a lowly second division club, lost only to Al Ahli. They defeated Al Yarmouk, 77-47 (46-26), Homentmen 71-43 (39-18), and Abu Nusair 98-24 (53-19).

Despite the determined efforts of Abbasi's players led by Ashraf Samara, Tareq Nejar and Iyad Zalatum, they could not keep up with the Kingdom's current basketball champions, Al Ahli.

Al Abbasi's young team has been playing with greater confidence since they beat Al Orthodoxi to clinch third place in the U-19 competition back in January. However, Al Ahli's more experienced players including Mohammad and Taimour Shamali, Ramez Hammoudeh, Wisam Nino, Zeid Alkhas and Riyad Ayes, in addition to an abundant number of substitutes easily penetrated their opponent's defences, winning the first half 53-32 before sealing the match 98-65 to top the group.

Al Ahli had scored big wins over the rest of the teams: 125-71 over Al Yarmouk, 160-43 over Abu Nusair and 140-55 over Homentmen.

In another match, Al Yarmouk upset Homentmen 65-41 to clinch third place in group 1.

Homentmen, playing with the absence of their coach, seemed at a loss and lost the match after a big number of unforced errors, turnovers and loose balls which enabled Al Yarmouk to score at ease and take a comfortable lead.

Al Yarmouk led 19-9 before Rafiq Habbad and team star Ais' Abu Rahme scored to narrow the gap to 19-15 and 20-15.

However, Yarmouk again expanded their lead to win the first half 29-22 by scoring eight consecutive points, including a three pointer.

Al Yarmouk secured their win early in the beginning of the second half, when they played a full court defence and succeeded in scoring 17 consecutive points to lead 45-22.

The combined efforts of Vasken Menesbian, Abu Rahme and Mohammad Qardan enabled Homentmen to better their score at 49-35, but Al Yarmouk kept up their pace and won the match 65-41.

Homentmen thus finished fourth in the group after defeating Abu Nusair 56-44 (31-21).

In group 2, Al Jazireh and Al Ahli are in the lead and are expected to qualify for the second round which will undoubtedly witness some tough competition among the four qualifiers.

Al Jazireh have so far defeated Al Watani 91-62 and Gazzet Hashem 116-36. They will next face Al Ahli Friday.

Al Ahli defeated Al Watani 77-51. They will meet Gazzet Hashem Wednesday in a postponed match before they play Al Jazireh.

In the second round, both Al Jazireh and Al Ahli seem to have a good shot at the title since most of their players are well experienced after playing alongside their senior teams in the first division.

Al Ahli and Al Jazireh's players have also joined the Jordanian youth national team. Al Jazireh's Ghaith Ennabi, Yousef Abu Bakr, Anwar Haddad and new recruit Naser Alawneh will face off with Al Ahli's Shamali brothers, Faisal Ensour, Nino

and Alkhas in what promises to be a competitive and interesting round.

Since the U-22 championship was cancelled in 1993, many promising players have this year also missed the competition, as players who were registered as just under-22 in 1993 could not join their teams in 1994. JBF rules this year stipulate that only those born after 1973 can compete in this age group.

Most teams were undoubtedly affected by this technicality. Hence, titleholders Al Orthodoxi, who won the last U-22 championship in 1992 have opted not to compete this year. Similarly Al Asrafieh, Al Hussein, Al Karak, Al Wifaq, Anjarah, Al Mafraq and Al Husun clubs are not competing this season.

According to the JBF's 1994 regulations, first division includes teams are required to compete in at least two age groups, while second division in only one age group.

This year the first division includes only seven teams: Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi, Jazireh, Jilil, Watani, Hussein and Homentmen. Two teams will be relegated in 1994 and only one team will be promoted from the first division making the total number of competing teams only six in 1995 compared to eight until 1993.

## Medvedev beats Bruguera to win Monte Carlo Open

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — Andrei Medvedev powered past defending champion Sergi Bruguera, 7-5, 6-1, 6-3 Sunday to win the \$1.7 million Monte Carlo Open.

The 19-year-old Medvedev, an ethnic Russian from Ukraine, was in his second final of the year in three tournaments. It was his seventh title on the pro circuit and first since last August when he won the New Haven Tournament.

The sixth-seeded Medvedev won \$235,000 for the victory. Bruguera, seeded fifth, received \$124,000. Bruguera won Monte Carlo in 1991, beating Boris Becker, and last year overtook Cédric Pioline of France.

Medvedev, ranked No. 9 in

the world, dominated the match from the start, winning in 99 minutes and forcing the pace throughout the match. Bruguera seemed flustered in contrast to his two previous victories where he had a streak of 21 consecutive winning games.

Bruguera started close in the first set but Medvedev was overwhelming in the second set, winning six consecutive games in taking the second set in 27 minutes.

Medvedev was on a hot streak. He took nine straight games from the second game in the second set until the third game in the third set, having a 3-0 lead.

Bruguera managed to come back to 4-3. But Medvedev stayed in control to take the final two games.

## Tottenham wins; Swindon relegated

LONDON (AP) — French striker Eric Cantona returned from a five-game suspension to score both goals in Manchester United's 2-0 victory over Manchester City late Saturday and reopen the Reds' three-point lead atop the premier league standings.

Cantona, who received the ban after being sent off in two successive games, struck in the 39th and 43rd minutes as United outgunned relegation-threatened City.

United now has 82 points and second place Blackburn Rovers has 79. Both have four games to play.

Swindon's relegation after only one season in the top flight was confirmed when John Gorman's team lost 4-2 at home to Wimbledon.

Robbie Earle netted twice as Wimbledon overpowered the Robins at the county ground and Swindon, which still has three premier league games to play, now has conceded 92 goals in 39 games.

Osvaldo Ardiles' fears that his Tottenham team would join Swindon in division one were eased by a 3-0 home victory over fellow struggler Southampton.

It was the Spurs' first win at White Hart Lane in 15 games after seven ties and seven defeats and it moved Tottenham to four points above the relegation zone instead of two.

Sheffield United gained a 1-0 victory at Norwich to move up one place from next-to-last, leapfrogging Oldham, which lost 3-2 at third place Newcastle.

Ipswich dropped further into trouble after losing 5-0 at Sheffield Wednesday and Everton struggled to a goal-less tie at home to Coventry.

With games running out, Manchester City has 43 points.

## Scherbo wins 3 golds at gymnastic championships

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP)

— Vitaly Scherbo, stung by a mistake-riddled all-around performance, carried off two apparatus golds in Sunday's final day of competition in the World Gymnastic Championships to leave here with three.

The 22-year-old Belorussian reaffirmed his status as king of gymnastics with golds in the vault and high bar apparatus finals to duplicate his three-gold medal haul at last year's Birmingham world championships in England.

Reflecting on his two startling errors on the rings and parallel bars which left him with a bronze in Thursday's all-around competition behind compatriot Ivan Ivankov, Scherbo said: "After the all-around competition I was very upset. Maybe I didn't show that with the smile on my face, but not in my soul."

"After this I said to myself that I had to win a couple of gold medals because I was (pensive) ... It's a bad word. I can't tell you."

"I was disappointed that as a professional I made two mistakes in a day. It was unbelievable, not only for you guys (the press), but for me."

Scherbo, the unprecedented winner of six gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, began his redemption with Saturday's win on the floor.

He continued to save his conscience on Sunday. He was in all three men's apparatus finals and came away with gold in two.

"I expected before the meet to win two gold medals, but I didn't tell anybody about that because of my superstition ... if I had told anyone before the competition then God would punish me," Scherbo said.

Scherbo, who plans a series of exhibitions in France next month, followed by competition in the United States leading up to the European Championships in Prague, topscored with 9.674 points on the vault and 9.687 on the high bars to



Belarus' Vitaly Scherbo performs on the vault during the final of the men's vault at the 1994 World Gymnastic Championships Sunday (AFP photo)

finish the championships with a flourish.

The Australian bounty swelled his career world gold medal tally to eight.

Women's all-around champion, Shannon Miller of the United States, was the leading female gymnast claiming her second gold medal of the championships with victory on the beam Sunday.

Miller scored 9.875 points to beat Ukraine's Lilia Podkopaeva (9.737) and Oksana Fomicheva of Russia (9.712).

But America's most decorated gymnast could have been further weighed down by medals if not for landing outside the area while performing her graceful floor routine to relegate her to fourth place and losing her balance while dismounting from the vault apparatus Saturday to finish seventh.

"I tried new skills in all my routines and did them all except for the vault," 17-year-old Miller said Sunday.

Miller's highly-rated teammate Dominique Dawes crashed out of the championships without a medal after being in a prominent position in the all-around and missing out on medals in the vault and floor Sunday.

Rumanian Lavinia Milosovic, world champion on the beam and Olympic champion on the floor, came away with two silver and a bronze.

Romania, one-time gymnastic superpower, finished with two gold medals, one behind Belarus, after 16-year-old China Gogean won the vault and Marius Urzica took the pommel horse.

China enjoyed one of its best world championships in modern times with two golds — Li Luo's exhilarating fluency on the uneven bars to receive a championship-high 9.912 points Saturday and Liping Huang's win Sunday on the men's parallel bars with 9.775 points.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HUSSEIN  
© 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### TEST YOUR PLAY

Both vulnerable, North deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K 10  
♥ A J 10  
♦ 10 3  
♣ A J 10 8 5 6

**EAST**  
♠ 7 4  
♥ Q 8 5 4 2  
♦ 7 5 2  
♣ 7 3 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q 9 8 3  
♥ A Q J 6  
♦ Q 5

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
3 NT Pass 4 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠.

Do you consider yourself a "diamond maven"? If so, here's a chance for you to shine. How would you play to make six spades after a heart lead?

You have conducted a good auction to reach an excellent slam with only 29 high-card points in the combined holding. Now you have to justify your fine bidding.

You can plan to take both fi-

nesses. If you do desire, even though you only enter outside the trump suit has been knocked out by the opening lead. However, beware of the diamond finesse. If it fails, you will still have to take the club finesse. That is not true of the club finesse because, if it loses, dummy's clubs will take care of all your losers in the diamond suit.

Once you've reached that conclusion, you may as well draw trumps after winning the first trick with dummy's ace of hearts. You end up in your hand when the third round resolves the outstanding trump and run the queen of clubs. It holds. What have you learned about the hand?

That depends on the skill of the defender sitting in the East seat. If he's good, you have learned absolutely nothing — it is routine to duck the king of clubs in this situation.

To repeat the finesse would invite defeat if it loses. However, your slam is now secure. Continue by leading a club to the ace and your only loser is a diamond.

Actually, here your technique will reap an unexpected reward. East ducked the club despite holding only a doubleton king and when his majesty drops under the ace you score an overtrick.

### FOR RENT

1. Villa with nice garden located near Amra Hotel in Um-Uthaina, consisting of 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, telephone and large car garage.
2. Deluxe furnished apartment consisting of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, telephone, and water reservoir, located in 7th Circle.

For more information, call Jordan Property Consultants Tel. 828882 - Fax: 828883

### SOUTH AFRICANS ABROAD

If you are a South African living abroad or travelling overseas on business or holiday on April 26, you will be able to vote in the country's first fully democratic elections.

Voting will take place in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on April 26, 1994 in room 136 in the Forte Grand Hotel from 07:00 to 19:00.

For further information please call the South African Embassy at 667140 or 674347

### CAR FOR SALE

New 1994 SAAB, CSE 9000, engine capacity: 2.3. (Lmola Red) colour, standard ABS brakes, full options. Available for sale at Zarqa Free Zone.

Kindly contact tel. number (6) 604531 between 1800-2100 hours every day.

### CAR FOR SALE

1993 BMW 325IS coupe, duty free, full options, navy blue colour. Mileage: 6,000 km.

Please call tel. 612858

### GOETHE - INSTITUT AMMAN VORTAG

LEBEN IN EINEM FREMDEN LAND - ERFAHRUNGEN AUSLAENDISCHER VAETER IN DER BUNDESREPUBLIK

von FRAU DR. JOSI SALEM-PICKARTZ am Dienstag, 26.4.1994, 19 Uhr im Goethe-Institut Amman

Jabal Amman, Abdulmun'im Rifai St., Tel. 641993

Restoring J.D. 4,500

# 50%

DISCOUNT ON ALL

**DUNLOP**

TENNIS, SQUASH RACQUETS, SHOES & SPORT WEARS

WADI SAQRA BOOKSHOP TEL: 633379

### FOR SALE

Duty unpaid car for sale; white TOYOTA Corona 1983, 1800cc manual with A/C, 132,00 km, excellent condition. Price: Best offer.

Tel.: 680397

### FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

Four-bedroom ground floor apartment with 400 sq.m. garden. JWICO built-in kitchen. Location: Sweifieh.

Call tel. 827537



International Wings Tours Agency  
Travel, Tourism, Air cargo

Tel 618182/3, Fax 618183, Tlx. 21142, P.O. Box 20833

### LUXURIOUS BRAND-NEW FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

First floor of 220 sq. m. in a two-floor building in the best residential area, between the 4th & 5th Circles (near Guest's Palace), Zahran Street - Jabal Amman, overlooking large beautiful private gardens.

Consists of: Large salon, dining room, 2 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully-equipped kitchen, laundry room with fully automatic W.M., 3 balconies. Crystal chandeliers and chosen carpets. Central heating, telephone, colour TV, and video. Car park available.

Suitable for a VIP family. If interested call tel. #: 671509 &/or 690116

### FOR RENT مفروشة للإيجار

#### MODERN FURNISHED APARTMENTS

- ★ Studio of one bedroom, K & B
- ★ One bedroom living room K & B
- ★ Two bedrooms, living-dining room K & B

Central heating and telephones

Location: Jabal Amman bel. 3rd & 4th Circles

Annual Rent - Owner Tel.: 667862/642351

### MODERN BUILDING FOR RENT



Location: Jabal Amman - 6th Circle, Umm Uthaina, 800 metres north of Amra Hotel.

Specifications: Stone building of four floors, with eight apartments, each with an area of 210 square metres. Each apartment consists of three bedrooms, one of them master, two extra bathrooms, three salons, verandas with maid room and a bathroom.

The basement: car parks and a garden, in addition to a storage room, services room and guard room. The apartment has a lift, central heating. The house is overlooking, calm and high class.

Fit for diplomatic missions.



Please call Haj Mashhour Real Estate Establishment offices in The 6th Circle: 818182, 818988 Downtown: 637666, 637011

TODAY	Cinema Tel.: 634144	Cinema Tel.: 699238	Cinema Tel.: 677420	Cinema Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Cinema Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625152
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	AMMOUN THEATRE	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	<b>TOM &amp; JERRY</b> The Movie Performances: 11:00 12:20 3:30 6:15 "White Palace" at 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.	Corey Haim & Corey Feldman, Nicole Eggert in <b>BLOWN AWAY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	<b>CONCORD '1'</b> <b>A PERFECT WORLD</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> <b>MR. JONS</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	The political comedy play <b>FORBIDDEN FORBIDDEN</b> Every night at 8:30 p.m.	Coming soon Abu Awad in: The new comedy play: <b>"A PUNCTURED BAG"</b> Directed by Ghassan Al Mashini	The Political Satire <b>"Ahlam Arab Summit Conference"</b> at 8:30 p.m.



